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December 2009

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Make a \$50 gift (most of it tax deductible) to the Shelter Association of Washtenaw County and we'll send you this limited-edition poster* showcasing the names of all the world-class talent to grace the stage at this incredible venue throughout its 17-year history. The poster is 22" x 30," hand-numbered and printed in rich black & white tones on ultra-premium paper.

Now you can change the world starting right here in our own community by helping to provide shelter for some of the thousands of individuals who experience homelessness in Washtenaw County every year. The Shelter Association at the Delonis Center needs your help, now more than ever.

In these troubled times, we can't just let our neighbors fall through the cracks. Make a gift, help the Shelter, and get a piece of Ann Arbor history. You'll sleep better knowing your gift helped others have a better place to sleep. visit www.annarborshelter.org, or call (734) 662-2829 to donate. It's just a shout away.

*Frame not included. More information on tax-deductible portion available at www.annarborshelter.org. Gift not limited to \$50.

WHO WANTS TO GET RID OF THEIR NECK AND BACK PAIN ONCE AND FOR ALL?!

LOCAL DOCTOR TELLS OF HIGH-TECH TREATMENT FOR EXTREME BACK PAIN AND SLIPPED DISCS!!MANY HAVE BEEN ABLE TO AVOID SURGERY!

LIVINGSTON — Low back or neck pain is an often mistreated and potentially dangerous disorder that affects the lives of millions of Americans each year. That's the bad news. The GOOD NEWS is that you may not have to continue suffering! Do you or a loved one suffer from tingling, numbness, or sharp pains and have tried everything to get rid of them and NOTHING HAS WORKED?! You may have tried pills, or have started to stretch more, go to therapy, do more exercises, injections, or you may have "just tried living with it" as some have suggested.

Do you ever find yourself asking any or all of these questions:

- Why does my back hurt?
- Why doesn't the pain just go away?
- Why can't I just be like normal people?
- How bad can this get?
- Will I eventually be crippled?
- Will I ever be able to live the life I used to?

I may just be able to answer these questions for you, if you are willing to continue reading and call our office to take us up on an incredible, possibly life changing, offer.

If you suffer from a Degenerated, Herniated, or Bulged Disc then this could be the perfect solution for you!

Most people that come into my office have been through every kind of treatment imaginable to get rid of their "slipped" or compressed disc. Many have been told by other doctors that they "won't treat them" or told them that "they have done everything that they could". I have gladly welcomed these people to my office because of my experience with a high-tech machine known as Spinal Decompression. A lot of people refer to this as a "new" technology, but I have been using this type of therapy for over six years.

What if I could offer a treatment option that is so comfortable that some patients even fall asleep while it is done? Well, I can offer that treatment for those who have the following conditions:

- Back and Neck Pain
- Sciatica and Arm Pain
- Herniated Discs
- Bulging Discs
- Degenerated Discs
- Stenosis
- Numbness and Tingling
- Muscle Weakness
- A Failed Surgery

We won't be able to know for sure if this type of treatment is right for you until we get to run a few simple painless tests and get a COMPLETE history of your condition... But let me tell you more about this treatment.

It is called Spinal Decompression and it means that it creates a weightless environment between the vertebrae or spinal bones to take pressure off of the irritated nerve. We do this by lying you on a table, face up or face down, and securing you to a

computerized pulley system that responds to forces in order to achieve a vacuum in the disc area. This vacuum can reduce bulges and bring fluid in for degenerative discs. Even if you have sciatica that just won't go away, or arm pain that is unbearable our FDA cleared table has been clinically proven to work.

Here's my story...



I injured my back while vacationing in Wisconsin one year. Bent over in horrible pain, I could barely walk and couldn't stand up straight for several days. Like most people I thought to myself "this will just go away by itself and everything will be fine". Well, it did go away by itself. A couple days later I could stand up straight and could bend over to tie my shoes with no pain.... But everything was NOT FINE. I noticed that when things touched my left leg that it didn't feel quite right. The more time that had passed the more numb my leg was getting!! It got to the point that if I scratched my leg, I wouldn't feel anything!

I tried chiropractic, pills, and physical therapy and nothing was helping!!

I iced, heated, stretched, and tried every suggestion I heard. Nothing helped until I worked with a doctor in the Chicago area that had just bought a new Spinal Decompression machine. My bulged disc had no symptoms in weeks and my leg regained 100% of its feeling back, even though I had suffered for years. I then developed a passion to help others who are dealing with any issue related to a "bad" disc.

Sounds too good to be true...So is there a catch?

No, there is no catch at all. Well, one slight catch. This treatment does not work for every condition that I have listed earlier. Sometimes during an exam we find things that prevent us from even recommending this procedure for people. So, that is why I want to offer you a FREE back or neck pain severity evaluation. Whether your pain comes from a bad disc, degenerative disc, bulging disc, herniated disc, an old injury or you have back pain that just won't go away and you've tried everything, I will be able to tell you at the end of the evaluation if this treatment is an option for you. If it is an option, and your condition qualifies for our care, we will give you recommendations in writing. Then it is up to you whether or not you want to proceed.

Let me GUARANTEE you, that this evaluation is ABSOLUTELY FREE with NO OBLIGATION for future care, whether you have great insurance or no insurance at all there is no fee for this service to you, or your insurance company. These treatments work so well for those who have tried everything, even if NOTHING HAS WORKED AT ALL.

But don't take my word for it...

Radiologist Edward Eyerman, MD reported the following MRI findings on herniated disc patients:

"Serial MRI of 20 patients treated with the decompression table shows in our study up to 90% reduction of subligamentous nucleus herniation in 10 of 14."

Norman Shealy, MD, PhD reported the following after a decompression therapy clinical trial:

"Eighty-six percent of ruptured intervertebral disc (RID) patients achieved 'good' (50-89% improvement) to 'excellent' (90-100% improvement) results with decompression. Sciatica and back pain were relieved." "Of the facet arthrosis patients, 75% obtained 'good' to 'excellent' results with decompression."

And finally, Thomas Gionis, MD reported the following decompression results:

"Results showed that 86% of the 219 patients who completed the therapy reported immediate resolution of symptoms, while 84% remained pain-free 90 days post-treatment. Physical examination findings showed improvement in 92% of the 219 patients and remained intact in 89% of these patients 90 days after treatment."

This isn't a do it for the rest of your life type of treatment...

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The Ann Arbor Observer (ISSN #0192-5717) is published thirteen times a year, once each month plus a special issue in August (the City Guide), by the Ann Arbor Observer Company, 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, MI 48104-1484. Telephone: (734) 769-3175. USPS #454-470. Member Certified Audit of Circulations, Inc. Periodicals postage paid at Ann Arbor, MI.

Subscriptions: \$20 for one year, \$35 for two years. Write to the Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, MI 48104-1484. Telephone (734) 769-3175. Fax (734) 769-3375. Email: subscribe@aaobserver.com

Manuscripts: The Observer welcomes freelance material. Send manuscripts to Editor, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, MI 48104-1484. Email: editor@arborweb.com

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HOLIDAY EVENTS AT KERRYTOWN

FUN STUFF



MIDNIGHT MADNESS!

December 4th, 6pm until Midnight:
Start the Madness in Kerrytown Market & Shops and the surrounding District stores along Fourth & Ann Streets for a fun-filled evening of shopping and dining. You'll find great holiday sales throughout the stores, with music and festive activities throughout.

1ST ANNUAL KINDLEFEST

December 4th, 6pm until 10pm
The Kerrytown District's First Annual KindleFest will be held in the Farmer's Market featuring artisans and farmers selling their goods and wares for the holiday season. We'll have live music, fire pits to keep warm & roast s'mores, along with beer, mulled wines and food for purchase! FREE!

DECEMBER SATURDAYS

FESTIVE LIVE MUSIC

Every Saturday from 11am until 2pm
Saturdays are festive inside Kerrytown with strolling musicians from the likes of the Ann Arbor Consort, guitarists and choirs from the community.

SANTA VISITS

Every Saturday in December 'til Christmas
Santa will be visiting Kerrytown Market & Shops during the Ann Arbor Farmer's Market inside Kerrytown Market & Shops. Free. For more information contact 734-662-5008

CHRISTMAS SHOP AT FOUND

Discover our own Magical Christmas Store on the 2nd level in FOUND. You'll love the unique variety of gifts, candles and holiday decor - including many made locally.

ECO SUNDAYS AT FOUND

Join FOUND for free demonstrations from 1pm until 3pm on Sundays focusing on using repurposed & recycled materials. Dec 6th: Local Artist Margaret Shaw hand-paints, then unravels thrifted sweaters to make all wool Art Socks. Dec 13th: Anne Sheill uses recycled wool for Penny Rug Circles. Dec 27th: Turn this year's holiday cards into next year's gift tags.

FOOD

Friday, Dec 4th, 7pm to 9pm
Drink Local!

Come sample Michigan Wines and help kick off Buy Local Week (December 4-12). And, Everyday Wines will be offering special wine discounts throughout the evening. Sponsored by the Kerrytown District Association.

Wed, Dec 9th in the evening
Champagne and Oysters!

Sample Michigan Wines and help celebrate the season with bubbly from Everyday Wines and oysters from Monahan's Seafood. Call 734-827-WINE or email everydaywines@gmail.com for information and tickets.

Wed, Dec 16th, 6:30pm to 8:30pm
Every Other Day Wine

Come enjoy a special tasting of our splurge wines (\$26 & up). Find that last minute perfect holiday gift. Contact Everyday Wines at 734-827-WINE or everydaywines@gmail.com for information and tickets.

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Ann Arbor Spice Merchants

Dec 5th- Cinnamon Spice Tea and Pumpkin Dip

Dec 12th- Spicy Cranberry Cream Cheese Dip

Dec 19th- Spiced Cocoa and Savory Pecans

Dec 26th- Assorted Bountiful Pantry Soups

Sun, Dec 13th
Holiday Dinner in the Market

Sparrow Market will host their monthly dinner featuring a five course meal. Call 761-8175 for reservations.



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Friday, Dec. 11, 5pm - 8pm

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Make personalized charms and pendants during this fun evening at FOUND. Registration and materials fees.



HOLLANDER'S
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Cooking Classes

Wednesday, Dec. 2nd - 1pm to 2pm
Creole vs. Cajun Jambalaya
with Elle Preston. Class Fee: \$13

Sunday, Dec. 6th - 1pm to 2:30pm
A Winter Supper with Eve Aronoff.
Class Fee: \$20

Tuesday, Dec 15th, 8am - 9:30am
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Paper Arts Workshops
at Hollander's

Thursday, Dec 3rd - 6pm to 8pm
Washi Egg Ornaments
with Judith Cattran. Class Fee: \$40

Fri-Sun, Dec 4th - 6th - 10am- 5pm
Ethiopian Wooden Board Binding
with Julia Miller. Class Fee: \$390

Saturday, Dec 12th - 10am- 5pm
Drum Leaf Binding
with Eric Alstrom. Class Fee: \$390

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UpFront

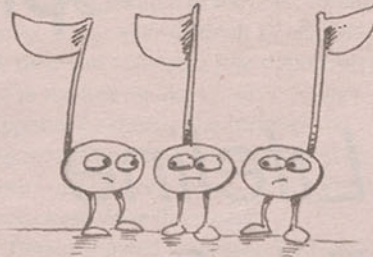
AAN alums: The people thrown out of work when the *Ann Arbor News* closed in July are getting on with their lives. After twelve years at the *News*, photographer Leisa Thompson is snapping senior portraits, weddings, and images for some local businesses. "The community has really stepped up to try to help us," she says. Graphic artist Tammie Graves works part-time at the *Tri-County Times* in Fenton and has launched a freelance business—including illustrating a children's book written by former reporter Jo Mathis. "It's a weird feeling," Graves admits. "I have not been out of work since I was fourteen."

Mathis is writing a column for the online *Ann Arbor Chronicle*, while former editor-reporter Judy McGovern now freelances for both the *Chronicle* and the *Observer*. Former stringer Lisa Allmendinger is now one of four reporters at the *A2 Journal*, the Heritage papers' new weekly—with help from stringer Art Aisner, a former *News* staffer. But given the dismal state of the newspaper industry, it's no surprise that some reporters have changed careers—including longtime reporter, editor, and columnist Geoff Larcom, who's now EMU's director of media relations.

Mall marauders: Rebecca's black Coach bag had a stuck zipper, so she didn't close it as she shopped at Kohl's one weekday morning. A pickpocket took the opportunity to steal her Visa and bank cards. In the hour before she realized they were gone, the cards were used to make \$11,628 in purchases—two MacBook Pros at the Apple Store in Briarwood and a pair of expensive cameras at Best Buy. She reported the theft in time to thwart an attempt to buy six iPods at Target.

"It's a faceless crime," says Mike, Rebecca's husband, who asked that their last names not be used. Or it was, until Target let Mike look at its surveillance photos of the couple who tried to buy the iPods. "They're not kids," he reports, "probably thirty to fifty; the male was Caucasian, the female, hard to tell...dressed fairly nicely." While Rebecca and Mike didn't have to pay for the stolen items, they were stunned to learn that not one salesperson asked the crooked couple for identification. So when their new Visa cards arrived, they didn't sign them. Instead, on the signature line, they wrote an instruction: "See ID."

Really, really big show: Beethoven's Ninth is big; Verdi's Requiem is bigger.



But the biggest show in classical music is Mahler's Eighth Symphony. The "Symphony of a Thousand" requires an enormous orchestra, an off-stage brass band, eight vocal soloists, a children's choir, and a gargantuan adult choir. And now the UMS Choral Union—the only chorus between Chicago and Cleveland capable of singing it—has been approached by three different orchestras about performing the Eighth in 2011.

Choral Union leaders won't identify the contenders, but sources say the Ann Arbor and Detroit symphonies are in the running, while officials at the Flint and Toledo symphonies confirm they're out. Who's the third? Possibilities include a visiting orchestra, the U-M University Symphony, and the Grand Rapids Symphony—the Choral Union did Mahler's Eighth with it ten years ago. The UMS says it will announce its choice by the end of the year.

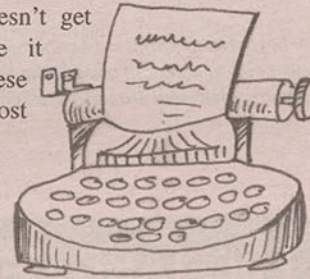
Knocking (down) Wall St.: Just north of the Huron River, two homes and a small apartment house stand forlornly between two U-M parking lots along Wall Street and Maiden Lane. They won't be lonely much longer: the U, which owns all three buildings, is demolishing them to create additional parking. Though plans to build a parking deck on the block were recently shelved in favor of a proposed town-gown transit hub on Fuller, Jim Kosteva, U-M's director of community relations, says that doesn't eliminate the need for more surface parking—especially with the eight-story, 230,000-square-foot Brehm Center for diabetes research due to open next spring.

What about the vacant lot across Maiden Lane? The site of the proposed Broadway Village at Lower Town, it's idle and weed-covered two years after Strathmore Development's "groundbreaking," and company president Scott Chappelle says he lacks the financing to proceed with the mega-project. But Kosteva says the university passed up a previous opportunity to "get involved" with the seven-acre property and isn't pursuing it now. After the Pfizer deal, he suggests, U-M leaders may be "hesitant to take more property off the tax rolls in a non-strategic way."

Passing the baguette: In October, baker Jeff Renner celebrated the thirtieth anniversary of the "Best French Bread in Town"—that's the actual name of his business—and lost his biggest outlet with the closing of Fresh Seasons Market (see Marketplace Changes, p. 77). He'd been selling fifty or more baguettes a day, Tuesday through Friday, at the west-side market.

His unplanned vacation didn't last long. "I contacted Jeff at 8 a.m. of the day following Fresh Seasons' announcement," says Robert Cantelon, manager and co-owner of Arbor Farms Market on Stadium. A former baker himself (he owned the legendary Sun Bakery downtown), Cantelon says Renner's bread lives up to its name. "Many folks have followed" his baguettes to Arbor Farms, he says—so many that even after boosting deliveries to eighty loaves a day, they're selling out. "We haven't been able to get enough thus far," says Cantelon. "We've asked Jeff to do an extra bake for us."

Unplanned obsolescence: The last typewriter repair shop in Ann Arbor is located in a nondescript single-story office building on Collingwood. But the folks at M & M Typewriter Service don't actually do the repairs themselves: they contract them out to Jim Carson, the last local practitioner of that once-valuable trade. Sadly, Carson doesn't get to practice it much these days. "Most companies still have at least one typewriter because there are some forms that can't be done on a computer or to make labels," he says. "But their use is so infrequent now, you can go for five years without getting it serviced and two years without changing ribbons." Though someone brings in a typewriter about once a week, he can repair only about half of them, because "there's no replacement parts—we don't even have ribbons." It's so frustrating that Carson is reluctant to let people know he still works on typewriters—he spends most of his time now repairing computer printers.



Lund's eye: Straight-arrow former U-M baseball coach Don Lund, who guided the Wolverines to a national championship in 1962, was once a skilled sign stealer. That's one revelation from *Playing Ball with Legends*, a new biography of Lund by local businessman Jim Irwin. Irwin, who spent five years researching and writing Lund's story, writes that the former pro peeked between catchers' legs for insufficiently concealed fingers and expertly read opposing pitchers' "tells"—a downward grip on the ball, a higher leg kick, a facial expression, even a raised eyebrow. In a 1961 game against Illinois, according to the book, Lund shouted "Let 'er rip!" from the dugout—his verbal code for an incoming fastball. Batter Ed Hood—a future Ann Arbor attorney and city council member—let rip a game-winning single that clinched the Big Ten championship.

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Inside Ann Arbor

AAPS Aftermath

After the millage defeat, everything's on the table.

Ann Arbor was the only municipality that supported the proposed two-mill "enhancement" tax in the November election. "We did gauge the temperature of this community accurately," says Ann Arbor PTSO co-president and pro-millage leader Donna Lasinski. But the city's 56 percent yes vote couldn't overcome the rejection elsewhere in the county. The Washtenaw Intermediate School District millage lost everywhere outside Ann Arbor, and by more than three to one in Freedom, Manchester, and Salem townships.

Most observers think the decisive moment came in mid-October, when McKinley president and philanthropist Albert Berriz came out against the tax. "It's almost impossible for any governmental entity of any kind to pass a tax increase in the face of well-organized opposition," says former Dexter superintendent and state rep John Hansen, speaking for himself and not for the Ann Arbor Chamber of Commerce (where he's interim president). "When a strong voice rises up and says 'Wait, this is not the right thing,' you can almost never overcome it."



Kathy Griswold helped defeat the millage she called a "Band-Aid"—then joined supporters in Lansing to lobby for school finance reform.

The school board will have to decide this month how to cope with reduced state aid for the current year.

"With us being a grassroots, volunteer group, it was very difficult to respond to the time and resources [the opponents] put in the last ten days," says millage supporter Lasinski. She believes the opponents shrewdly targeted outlying, more conservative areas—which voted in heavier numbers than usual.

Berriz donated at least \$75,000 to the anti-millage campaign, but he contends that voters responded to the merits of the arguments, not their volume. He and his allies, former school board member Kathy Griswold and retired computer entrepreneur Ted Annis, argued that the tax increase would unfairly burden poor voters—and also that it wasn't needed. They claimed the schools could easily save the money they need by cutting administration and overhead.

Lasinski doesn't buy that, pointing out that the central administration and principals together consume only 4 percent of the school's \$190 million annual budget—about \$7.6 million. Without the millage's extra \$11 million a year, superintendent Todd Roberts says, the school board will need to decide this month how to cope with reduced state aid for the current year. By February, he adds, "there will be a plan to bring our costs in line with revenue" next year—when the state is expected to cut schools funding even more.

The district has already cut \$16 million from its budget in the last four years without laying off teachers or cutting special programs like music. But now, Roberts says, "Everything is on the table."

The obvious target is teacher salaries and benefits, which absorb 71 percent of the district's budget. "Until the board takes on the union and brings wages somewhat closer to reality," a pseudonymous commenter warned on AnnArbor.com, "I'll vote no on any new millage requests."

"There's a lot of vitriol and anger out there," agrees Brit Satchwell, the new president of the Ann Arbor Education Association. Saline's school board has already asked its teachers and other unions to reopen their contracts. Though Ann Arbor hasn't taken that step, Satchwell agrees that the vote has changed the playing field. "We are right now engaged in discussions that the union wouldn't touch before," he says. "We are engaged in [discussions of] merit pay and [teacher] evaluations."

Satchwell, surprisingly, agrees with Griswold's characterization of the defeated millage as a "Band-Aid." But he challenges her view that, had it passed, Ann Arbor would have "no incentive" to press the state legislature to reform school finance. Says the union president: "I don't think the rest of the state going up in flames was enough of a reason to throw our kids onto the bonfire."

Clayton's Dilemma

Ypsi Township's no vote means hard choices for the county sheriff.

With the narrow defeat of a police service millage in Ypsilanti Township, sheriff Jerry Clayton has to figure out how to patrol the county's second-largest community with ten fewer deputies—and also what to do with the deputies the township can no longer afford.

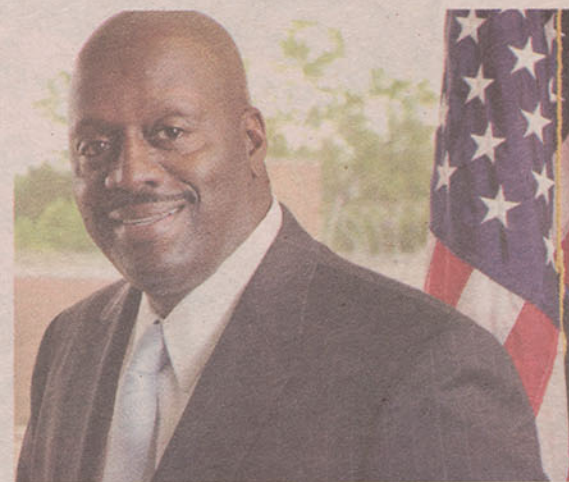
The township has already cut its contracted police force from forty-four deputies to thirty-eight. Now, says supervisor Brenda Stumbo, it "will be reducing our police force by [another] ten officers in January."

Clayton says, "Trying to provide police service to Ypsilanti Township with fewer deputies really, really concerns me. If we reduce staff, all we'll be able to do is respond to calls for service, and it could slow down response time."

For the deputies, "the worst-case scenario is layoffs," says Clayton. "It's the last thing I want, and it's my responsibility to not let that happen." So far this year, the new sheriff's cut nearly \$1 million from his budget without laying anyone off, mainly by controlling overtime. Now, Clayton says, he's going "to work with the townships, the county board, and my staff to find other revenue options."

"I'm optimistic we'll find a way to keep them [the Ypsi Township deputies] on the payroll," predicts Clayton. "There'll be general fund [supported] deputies assigned wherever they need to be throughout the county." And county administrator Bob Guenzel notes that "we'll be opening a new wing of the jail, if any of them are interested in correctional work." But that's a ways off: Clayton doesn't expect to need more correctional officers for at least a year, until renovations are completed.

There is one bright spot: Clayton reports the county board has offered to extend the current police service contracts with the townships with very small rate increases—2 percent next year and 4 percent in 2011. Most townships have already accepted the offer.



"The worst-case scenario is layoffs," says sheriff Jerry Clayton. "It's the last thing I want, and it's my responsibility to not let it happen."

Seasonal Slowdown

Zingerman's Mail Order hired a mere 300 temp workers this year.

In early November, long lines of applicants snaked outside the company's warehouse on Phoenix Drive. But Zingerman's national sales arm played it conservative this year, hiring 10 percent fewer seasonal workers to handle the holiday rush.

After a dozen years of sometimes explosive growth in revenue and employment, Zingerman's had an "ugly Christmas" last year, explains managing partner Mo Frechette. This year, he says, it's budgeting for no improvement—though "we're crossing our fingers for a slight uptick."

Just don't look for "recession specials" in the 600,000 holiday catalogs Mail Order is sending out. "People still want joy in what they eat and excitement," says Frechette. "We sell special foods for special occasions.... The product mix hasn't really changed."

The temps come from all walks of life—"the Ph.D. working next to the guy out of jail for three weeks," says



"I remember when 100 boxes would freak us out bad," says Zingerman's Mail Order warehouse leader Betty Gratopp. Now they send out thousands of boxes a day in the week before Christmas.



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Tim Athan

Life in Ann Arbor



Fetching the Newspaper

Frechette. But this year in particular, many applied who in better economic times would be working at think tanks, consulting firms, or universities. "Their careers are just taking a pit stop here," Frechette says cheerfully. "We've had more applicants than ever."

The final five days of pre-Christmas orders account for close to one-fourth of the company's \$8 million in annual sales. On the busiest day, December 21 or 22, Frechette expects to ship \$600,000 worth of bread, cheese, sweets, and other foodstuffs.

Frechette believes the downturn is temporary. "We're still looking to grow as a business," he says. Within a year or two, he hopes to have 500 seasonal jobs—and more full-time positions, too. Three-quarters of Mail Order's forty year-round employees started as seasonal temps.

Understated Success

"The building was stuffed to the gills," says Kelsey Museum director Sharon Herbert.

In contrast to the high-profile addition to the U-M Museum of Art across State Street, the expansion of the Kelsey, the U-M's museum of archeology, attracted little notice. But that didn't stop fans from turning out in force for its November reopening. "If any more came," says Herbert, "we'd have had to turn them away."

Herbert says the understated approach

inviting at night, when passersby cutting through from Maynard to State can see the glass objects displayed inside.

The glass, the popular Egyptian mummy case, and other ancient artifacts—pottery, statues, figurines, jewelry—are all now housed in the new wing. The additional space allows curators to arrange the collection in new ways. It's "a multicultural look at the ancient world through a combination of artifacts from sites from different parts of the ancient world," explains Todd Gerring, the Kelsey's outreach coordinator. "One civilization flows into another." A burial exhibit, for example, includes a child's skeleton in a cave and grave markers such as inscribed Roman steles and Egyptian wood paintings. A re-creation of a Roman bath includes a variety of health and beauty artifacts, while a writing exhibit has examples of seals, cylinders, and papyrus.

The new wing was primarily paid for with an \$8.5 million gift from the late Mary and Ed Meader of Kalamazoo. Generous U-M supporters—they also made major gifts to the renovation of Hill Auditorium, the music and medical schools, the chemistry department, and the Depression Center—they asked that the wing be named in honor of Mary's grandfather, pharmaceuticals pioneer William Upjohn.

The original 1891 Romanesque building is now used for classes and public programs. Its restored Tiffany window—one of only two in Ann Arbor—is now lit up at night for the pleasure of passersby on State Street.

Some Like It Dark

Even in a recession, chocolate rules.

Bookstores and restaurants may be closing, but downtown still has four stores with "chocolate" in their names: Kilwin's Chocolates, Schokolad Chocolate Factory, Carillon Chocolates, and Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory. ♦



The Upjohn Exhibit Wing tripled the Kelsey Museum's exhibit space. State-of-the-art climate controls now protect the popular mummy case and other artifacts.

was deliberate. One of campus's most striking buildings, the Kelsey's stone castle is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The architects—Hammond Beeby Rupert Ainge, of Chicago—designed the Upjohn Exhibit Wing to be lower than and behind the original building. Windows along the south side make it especially

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Inside Ann Arbor



MARK BIALEK

When the recession hit, "We were hanging on by our fingernails," says Angela Eddins of Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory. The Girl Scouts rode to their rescue: troops come in to earn their "sweet shop" badge.

Still, when the economy crashed last fall, the chocolatiers found themselves in a new world overnight.

Scott Huckestein, who owns Schokolad with his wife, Dianna, says they'd had "double-digit growth since the inception," but "this year we're flat." It would have been far, far worse without its huge corporate business. "Our sales are running about 80-20 for corporate versus walk-in," Huckestein says. His biggest client is the U-M—Schokolad has done chocolates depicting the renovated Rackham Building and the new Ross School of Business.

Rocky Mountain co-owner Angela Eddins says her family's business was growing steadily until the recession hit, and then "we were hanging on by our fingernails this summer." The Girl Scouts came to her rescue. Eddins, a leader and former scout, took out an ad in a scout publication inviting troops to earn a "sweet shop" merit badge by taking a class at Rocky Mountain. The response, Eddins says, was "awesome. They made the difference between life and death."

Alex Molnar bought what was then the Chocolate House last spring from his aunt and uncle, Vickie and Rob Ponitz. Molnar changed the name to Carillon Chocolates and added coffee, lattes, and espresso to the menu, plus more seating. So far, Molnar says, "the economy's been tough, and our sales are off of what they were a year ago"—but "the best hot chocolate in town" is keeping him afloat.

"It's not like the Clinton years," says Chera Tramontin, co-owner of Kilwin's with her mother Karen Piehutkoski, "but we're holding steady, and last year we showed an increase." Though they added ice cream in the nineties and caramel apples earlier this decade, chocolates still make up 80 percent of sales.

"Chocolate is a feel-good drug," says Tramontin. "It's one of the last thing people take out of their life, so why change?"



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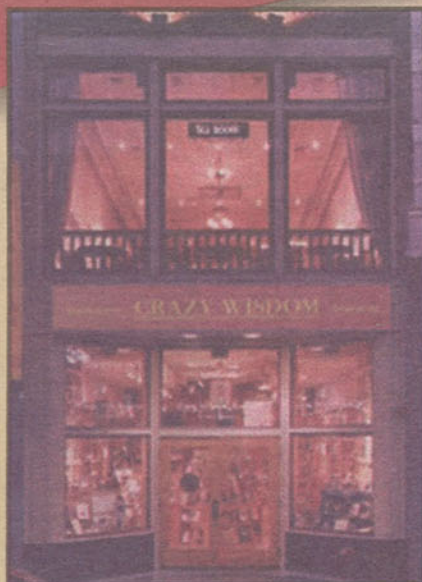
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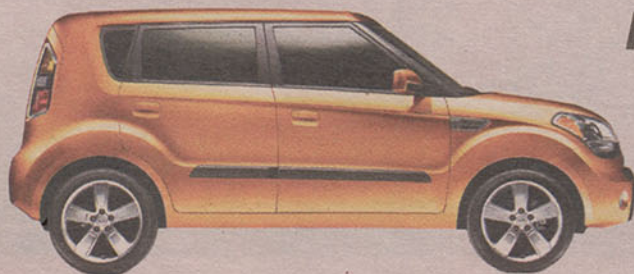
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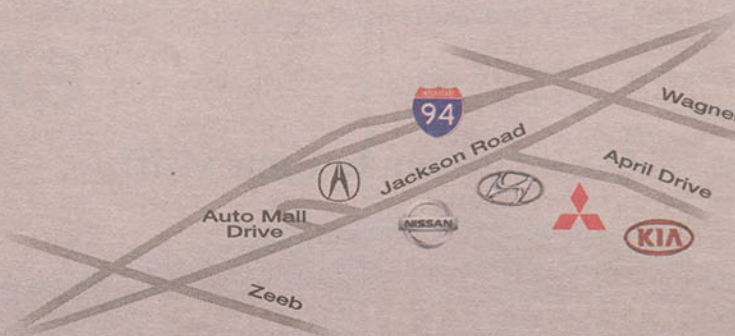
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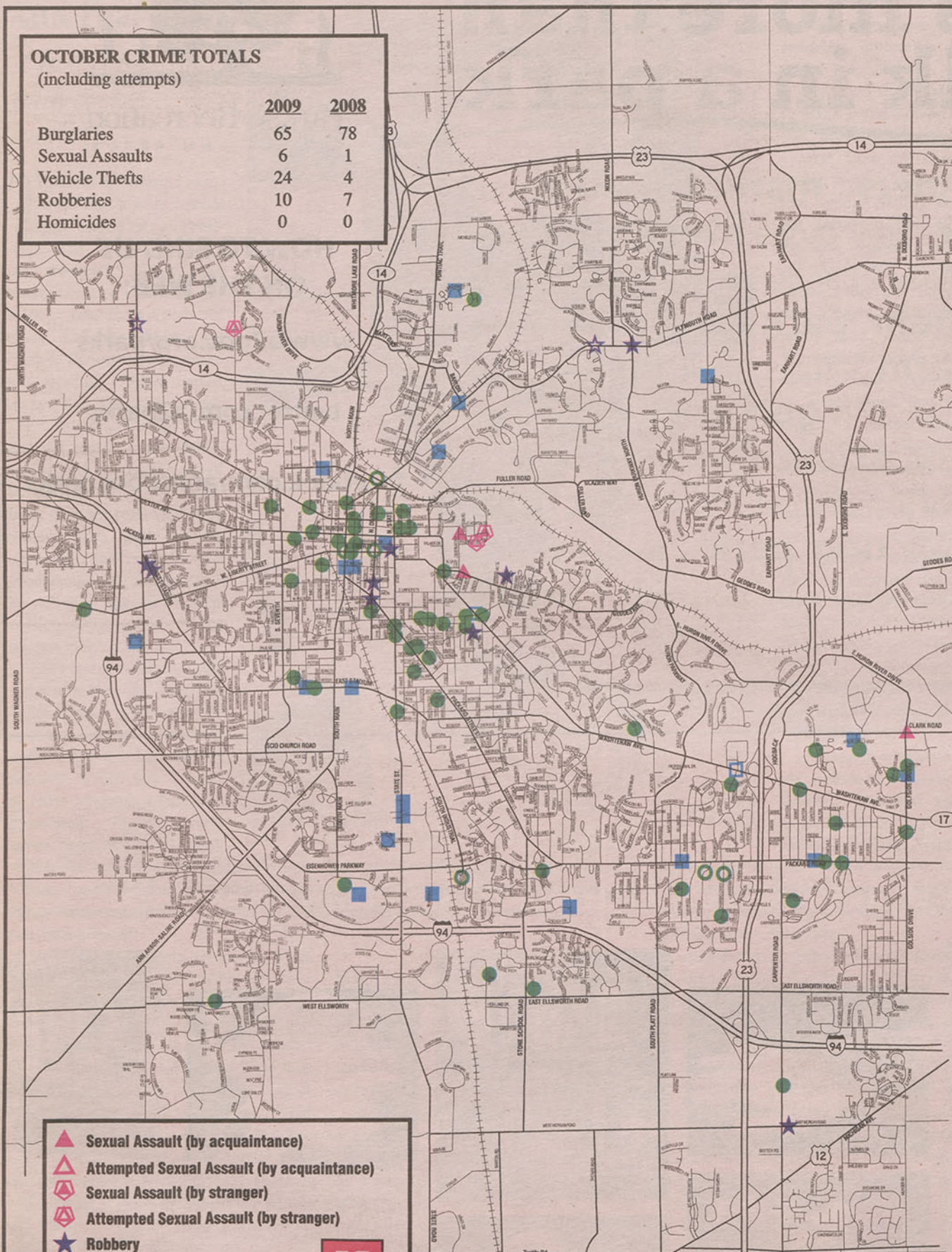
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CrimeMap

OCTOBER CRIME TOTALS (including attempts)

	2009	2008
Burglaries	65	78
Sexual Assaults	6	1
Vehicle Thefts	24	4
Robberies	10	7
Homicides	0	0



- KEY**
- ▲ Sexual Assault (by acquaintance)
 - ▲ Attempted Sexual Assault (by acquaintance)
 - ▲ Sexual Assault (by stranger)
 - ▲ Attempted Sexual Assault (by stranger)
 - ★ Robbery
 - ★ Attempted Robbery
 - Burglary
 - Attempted Burglary
 - Vehicle Theft
 - Attempted Vehicle Theft

These are the major crimes and attempted crimes at Ann Arbor addresses reported by the Ann Arbor Police Department and the public safety departments of the U-M and Pittsfield Township in **October 2009**. Because locations are reported by block rather than by address, placement is approximate.

If you need police help in an emergency, call 911. If you have information about a crime, call your police department's **anonymous 24-hour tip line: 996-3199 in Ann Arbor, (800) 863-1355 on campus, or 944-1238 in Pittsfield**. If you have questions about a crime shown here, call Ann Arbor Neighborhood Watch (994-8775, Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-4 p.m.), the U-M Department of Public Safety (763-1131), or the Pittsfield Department of Public Safety (944-4911).

The box at the top of the map shows the number of crimes reported in October 2009 and October 2008.

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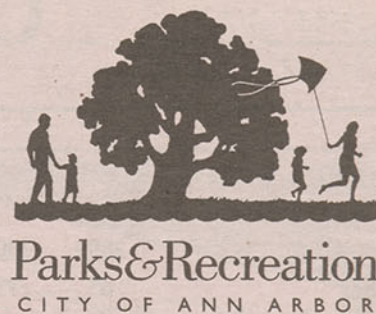
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Ann Arborites

Ann Pearlman

A therapist scores with cookie comfort.

Time for an unlisted number? That's what friends are asking Ann Pearlman. The question throws the therapist, author, and longtime Ann Arborite for a loop. Yes, she's living out every writer's fantasy: Simon & Schuster just printed a whopping 350,000 copies of her first published novel, *The Christmas Cookie Club*, and the rumor in the industry is that she was paid a cool \$1 million for it (she smilingly declines comment). The movie rights have already been sold, and there's even a product tie-in: Zingerman's is selling a special "cookie collection" using some of the recipes in the book.

But Pearlman winces at the suggestion that she'll have to unlist herself. "I love my life as it is!" she says. Although she's cut back her therapy practice to one day a week to write a sequel—she has a three-book contract—she's savvy about the fickle book world. She wrote four unpublished novels before *Cookie Club* clicked, and strange things happened with her three published non-fiction books.

Her first book, *Keep the Home Fires Burning: How to Have an Affair with Your Spouse*, drew on her work as a marriage counselor. But it didn't stop her own husband from straying—a story she related in *Infidelity: A Memoir*. Then there was *Inside the Crips: Life Inside L.A.'s Most Notorious Gang*, which she co-authored with supposedly reformed gang member Colton Simpson. Not long after its publication, Simpson went on trial—charged with driving a getaway car during a jewelry store robbery. No longer a story of redemption, the book foundered.

Pearlman, who is Jewish, was looking for a happier subject when she decided to write a novel based very loosely on her annual Christmas/Hanukkah cookie exchange group. The book is set in Ann Arbor, and the main character, Marnie—she calls herself "the head cookie bitch"—visits or talks about Gallup Park, Crazy Wisdom Bookstore, Top of the Park, and, of course, Zingerman's.

The women love the gathering and find comfort in one another's company, but the book also relates the stresses and upheavals of their lives—marriage woes, financial meltdowns, problems with kids and grandkids, deaths. Despite the reach-

for-the-Kleenex moments, its message is essentially upbeat: good cookies and good friends can help a woman make it.

Pearlman warmly welcomes me to her house on a woodsy street in Scio Township. Sixty-seven, with expressive brown eyes and wearing a silky, open-sleeve blouse of contrasting colors, she's an earth mother in black nail polish.

Raised partly in Hyde Park—an academic enclave on Chicago's rough South Side—she developed street smarts early. As a social worker, she went on to work with prisoners and delinquent kids. Her own three children, all grown, worried when she interviewed Colton Simpson on his turf in central L.A. But her only complaint about her host, who is now serving eighty years in prison under California's "three strikes" law, was that he kept nothing but Cheerios to eat.

A highly disciplined writer, Pearlman writes every day from 8 a.m. to at least noon. She also paints and sculpts, and several of her welded, animal-like figures are displayed in her large, airy house. She sees patients in a side room with a spacious view of the outdoors.

"We built this house," Pearlman says of herself and her ex-husband, Al Hinton, a now-retired U-M art professor. The couple separated in 1995, about a year after they

moved in, and divorced in 2000, the same year *Infidelity* appeared in print.

Pearlman is frequently asked if the women in the fictional Christmas Cookie Club are based on the women in her actual group. Mainly not, the author insists. She did base Marnie's physical description on her friend Marybeth Bayer, who brought her into the group nine years ago. With one member's permission, she reprinted an actual email that included a recipe. And, as in the book, seven of the twelve women in her "real" group have had cancer—including Pearlman, whose melanoma was caught early. But the most dramatic details are fictional. "As far as I know, none of the women have had a secret love affair for twenty years," Pearlman says. "None had a friend who slept with their father!"

Although some readers assume she herself is Marnie, Pearlman says that she feels closer to her fictional Allie, a therapist involved with a much younger man (she smilingly declines comment on a romantic parallel). "My kids think I'm all of the characters," she says.

As a therapist, writer, and, most recently, cancer patient (she had surgery in early 2007), Pearlman is interested in survival. "What makes people heal? How can we overcome tragedy?" she asks. "Nobody escapes unscathed. We have all struggled."

When her husband left her, she recalls, her women friends—often bringing food—helped her get through. The publication of and acclaim for *Infidelity* (her publishing house nominated it for a Pulitzer) was also healing.

Simon & Schuster is doing a massive publicity blitz for *The Christmas Cookie Club* this month. Pearlman has already met with movie producer Wendy Finerman (*Forest Gump*, *The Devil Wears Prada*) and lobbied to film the movie in Ann Arbor (there's no word yet on that). Early reviews have been mixed—*Entertainment Weekly* graded it C+—but online reader comments have been more enthusiastic.

Whatever the book's fate—a best-seller or a might-have-been—Pearlman believes that she's offering an outlet for escape for readers in difficult times. "Maybe I'd like to stop world hunger or violence," she says. "But if people start enjoying each other by baking cookies, that's pretty special."

—Eve Silberman



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Itinerant Preacher Elijah Pilcher

Ann Arbor on 24¢ a day

Slimy logs shifting along the swollen Grand River trapped the horse's hock. But the rider didn't curse—that would be unseemly for an itinerant Methodist preacher on the Michigan frontier. Elijah Pilcher freed his horse's leg, then rode into the October-chilled water near Jackson. Unexpectedly deep, it lapped over his thighs and into the leather saddlebags that held his Bible, his volume of Shakespeare, and his only change of clothes. The horse struggled up the bank—and sank into a marsh. "Stripping up to my sleeves," Pilcher recalled in his memoirs many years later, "I thrust my hand into the mire and raised his feet and placed them upon new turf." Muddy and cold, he started for Ann Arbor at sundown, with 10¢ in his pocket.

Michigan in 1830 was a severe test for anyone, let alone a twenty-year-old preacher. But in an era when half of all Methodist circuit riders died, exhausted, before age thirty, Pilcher's cast-iron stamina and vinegary humor would take him from a boyhood on a small Ohio pioneer farm to the U-M Board of Regents and Michigan's state legislature.

Ann Arbor, settled only six years before Pilcher's October drenching, was the linchpin of his 400-mile circuit.

Traveling on horseback, he completed a circuit every four weeks, preaching twenty-eight times in Ann Arbor, Jackson, Marshall, Coldwater, Clinton, Tecumseh, Adrian, Manchester, and Saline.

The sparsely settled region had few roads. Pilcher followed Indian trails and crossed marshes, oak openings, and forests. He once spent four days near Marshall blazing trees with an ax from horseback, to mark his way back. For days afterwards, his right arm was crippled.

He slept in settlers' log cabins, preaching for bed and board. "The mansion was surrounded by a rail fence, in such a condition that it allowed the pigs to have free access to the yard, and...to the parlor," Pilcher wrote of one home. "Besides them there were two or three dogs, which were commoners in the house, interspersed with some chickens and children." He spent that night in bug-infested bedding. "These are only some of the pleasures that go to make up the woof of an itinerant Methodist preacher's life," he wrote, "and tend to give spice and romance to it."

FROM LIFE AND LABORS OF ELIJAH H. PILCHER, OF MICHIGAN



Raised near Canaan, Ohio, Pilcher was one of nearly 3,000 Methodist circuit riders who followed settlers westward in the early nineteenth century. The church's rudimentary "entrance exam" purportedly consisted of only four questions: Is this man truly converted? Does he know and keep our rules? Can he preach acceptably? Has he a horse?

The itinerant preachers gained converts by personally visiting settlers and espousing a populist doctrine of universal salvation and instantaneous conversion, as popularized at camp-meeting revivals. In Pilcher's district, the woolliest stop was the rowdy frontier town of Jackson—

Pilcher travelled his 400-mile circuit on horseback, preaching for his bed and board in settlers' log cabins. In his memoirs, he recalled a night spent in bug-infested bedding. "These are only some of the pleasures that go to make up the woof of an itinerant Methodist preacher's life," he wrote, "and tend to give spice and romance to it."

when Jackson was selected as the site for the state prison, locals joked that the state should simply wall in the town. There, in "the bar-room of a log tavern, with the bottles staring me in the face," lifelong teetotaler Pilcher preached one of his first Michigan sermons.

At a time when lowly farmhands earned up to a dollar a day, Pilcher was paid just \$87 a year. That works out to 24¢ a day, the equivalent of \$5 today. "Who, not moved by the Holy Ghost to the work of the ministry, would undertake it?" he later wondered. "Long and fatiguing rides were to be performed on horseback; storms were to be breasted; rivers and smaller streams were to be forded and swum; lodgings were to be found in rude log cabins, and sometimes with ruder people..."

This Job-like list of hardships temporarily ended when Pilcher obtained a coveted ministerial station in Ann Arbor in 1837. According to a biography written by his son James, he also served as a U-M regent from 1845 to 1851 and earned a medical degree from U-M in 1859, though he never practiced. But the Methodists kept

At a time when lowly farmhands earned up to a dollar a day, Pilcher was paid just \$87 a year. That works out to 24¢ a day, the equivalent of \$5 today. "Who, not moved by the Holy Ghost to the work of the ministry, would undertake it?" he later wondered.

their ministers moving. Pilcher served as presiding elder for congregations in Monroe, Adrian, Port Huron, Detroit, and Ontario, and founded churches in Detroit, Manchester, Dexter, Chelsea, Saline, Jackson, Grass Lake, Marshall, Coldwater, Hastings, and Ingham County. In between he earned a law degree, helped found Albion College, bought land in Jackson for a farm where, his son wrote, he "evolved vegetables," and wrote editorials for the *Kalamazoo Gazette* boosting agricultural schools. That helped spur the legislature's establishment of the Michigan Agricultural College, now MSU.

Each year the Methodists gave a one-year break to "superannuated, or worn-out preachers." Pilcher requested this sabbatical in 1836, after the first of his three marriages. Forty-three years later he requested another, using the time to write his relentlessly detailed *Protestantism in Michigan: Being a Special History of the Methodist Episcopal Church and Incidentally of Other Denominations*. The book presents a biographical inventory of Michigan ministers, in dignified, floral prose—with one exception. Of the Grand Rapids church, he says, "This whole valley only returned twenty-seven members in 1836. The next year there was no report, owing to circumstances over which we prefer to draw a veil."

This referred to Frederick Seaborn, a minister who'd been run out of town for lewd behavior, heaved onto a gaunt horse with a bundle of straw dressed in women's clothes tied behind him. But Seaborn was the exception to Michigan's minister corps, who helped raise Methodism to such a force that in 1868 Ulysses S. Grant remarked that there were three great parties in the United States: the Republican, the Democratic, and the Methodist Church.

Before his death in 1887, Pilcher suffered a stroke that crippled his right arm—so he learned to write with his left. When he sent his recollections to the Pioneer Society of Michigan, he didn't mention the churches he'd founded or his roles as presiding elder. Nor did he mention his degrees or honors.

He dwelt instead on his long-ago green years as a young itinerant in Michigan. Then, a day's work might consist of composing a sermon on horseback over lonely miles, preaching to an audience of two, and freeing a horse's foot in an October sunset.

—Laura Bien

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Ann Arbor on the Couch

A century after Freud, local psychoanalysts keep the faith.

by Jan Schlain

Betty Draper lies on a couch in a dimly lit room, wringing her hands. A middle-aged man sits in a leather chair behind her head, silently holding a pencil and notebook. "I don't know why I'm here," Betty tells the psychiatrist. But she returns, and eventually she realizes that despite living what seems like a fairy-tale life, she's deeply unhappy—not least because her sexy ad-executive husband, Don, is cheating on her.

Betty and Don Draper live inside the television world of *Mad Men*. The show is set in the early 1960s, when the standard treatment for mental illness was the "talking cure" promoted by Sigmund Freud at the start of the twentieth century. For many patients, that meant psychoanalysis—daily sessions on the couch that might stretch on for years.

Since then, anti-depressants and other drugs have revolutionized psychiatry.

"If you looked at the major departments of psychiatry in the 1960s, in the major medical schools, all of the chairs were psychoanalysts," says U-M psychiatry professor Ken Silk. Yet by the mid-1980s, "there were very, very few psychoanalysts that were department chairs," Silk says he can think of only a couple who survived "the shift that occurred in academic medicine, away from psychoanalysis, toward psychobiology."

Today, Betty Draper's doctor would be far more likely to prescribe medication or, at most, short-term psychotherapy. Compared to psychoanalysis, psychotherapy "has more modest aims and goals," explains Ron Benson, senior training analyst with the Michigan Psychoanalytic Institute (MPI). Whereas psychotherapy is often used to help people cope with their current problems, Benson says "psychoanalysis's goal is restructuring the patient's mental functioning"—a process that can take 1,000 or more sessions on the couch.



U-M psychiatry professor Ken Silk witnessed "the shift that occurred in academic medicine, away from psychoanalysis, toward psychobiology."



JADRIAN WYLIE

Psychiatrist Dwarky Rao, who trained in India, embodies the demographic change among local psychoanalysts. What's unchanged, he says, are the essential tools of analysis: "confidentiality, privacy, [and] frequent meetings."

The change was driven in part by managed care—insurers are no longer willing to pay for years of talk therapy. Yet Ann Arbor still has dozens of working psychoanalysts, with dozens more in training. Some, like Betty Draper's, are classic Freudians, dark-suited and silent. Others dress more casually and speak more freely. More now are women, and many now come to therapy with a PhD in clinical psychology or a master's in social work instead of an MD.

Analyst Marvin Margolis, a past president of both the MPI and its parent organization, the American Psychoanalytic Association, says that the pendulum swung away from men and medicine in the latter part of the last century. Margolis, who has both a MD and a PhD, says the organizations are hoping to continue the trend away from the stereotypical "white Jewish male from New York," while attracting more candidates with backgrounds in psychiatry and neurology.

Dwarkanath "Dwarky" Rao embodies the change. "I did my psychiatry training in India," says Rao, who succeeded Bronx-born Harvey Falit as president of MPI last year. But like his predecessors, Rao, who practices in Ann Arbor, remains a Freudian at heart.

The pioneering therapist "was wrong about so many things," Ann Arbor's Jim Hansell, a training analyst with MPI, told *Newsweek* in 2006. "But he was wrong in such interesting ways." Few now believe, for example, that the Viennese physician's patients were quickly "cured" once he uncovered their repressed childhood traumas. But psychoanalysts continue to work from Freud's premise that revisiting their patients' pasts is the road to a happy-

er, more productive future. Says Hansell, "Every form of [talk] therapy out there today rests on the foundations that he laid."

"I trained with neurosurgeons, neurobiologists, [and] psychiatrists," says Rao. "I have nothing but awe and respect for what they can teach us. I have no doubt the translations [between medical and talk therapies] will get easier, and we will speak the same language, and maybe we will then have the same disciplines. But that is some way off."

Despite today's more diverse credentials and backgrounds, Betty Draper would instantly recognize a contemporary psychoanalyst's office—the analyst in the chair, the patient on the couch, the box of tissues close at hand. I ask Rao if his twenty-fourth-floor session room in Tower Plaza is any different from one in the 1960s. "The lights are no longer dim," he smiles. "See how bright it is in here?"

The tools of psychoanalysis, Rao says, are "confidentiality, privacy, [and] frequent meetings." The key to success, most practitioners say, is the intensity and intimacy of the relationship that develops between therapist and patient. And forming that relationship remains a slow process based, in Rao's words, on "free association to guide and help us understand what is going on in the mind." And so, as many as five times a week, hundreds of Ann Arborites travel to session rooms in Tower Plaza or Maynard House or along Washington Street, where they pay anywhere from \$50 to \$200 to lie on a couch for forty-five minutes and say whatever comes to mind.

"It's almost a faith," says Jeff Mason, an associate dean in the U-M school of information. "Not so much as faith in God...But there's not a lot of scientific evidence that if you

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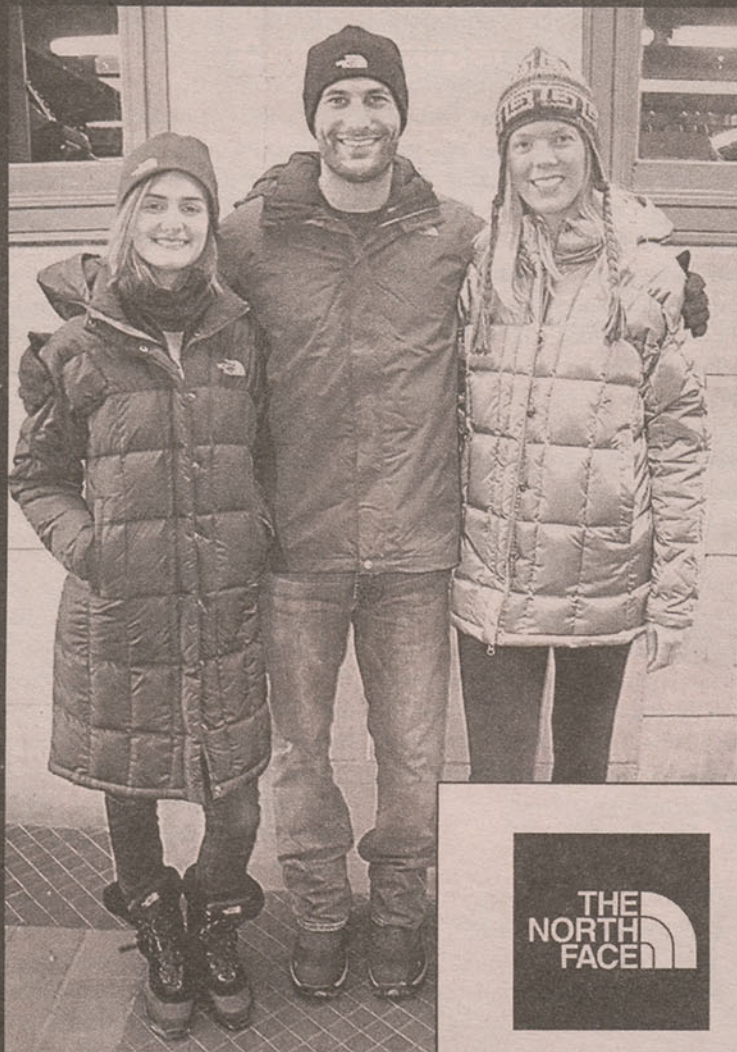
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stick with this for ten years you will reach your goals.... A favorite phrase of my analyst was, 'psychoanalysis is a science in a profound state of immaturity.' Mason laughs. "It is a serious resort—you don't want to do it lightly."

Mason was born and raised in New York, the son—shades of *Mad Men*—of an advertising executive. It was a home "with not a lot of warmth or closeness." He describes his father as "very troubled... unofficially mentally ill." Mason, his mother, and two siblings all eventually went into therapy, but never his father—"Nothing was wrong with him!" Instead, "everyone around him suffered."

"From a very early age, I always wanted for close relationships," Mason recalls. He started dating at a young age, and married "quite young. I had not realized that I could not cope on my own."

He first saw a therapist in 1984, when he was twenty-five years old. For the next nine years he saw "maybe three different therapists for relatively short periods of time.... we dealt with things on a functional level, more behavioral therapy, to improve the ways I inter-related with other people."

But he found he was getting unhappy and felt he was growing distant from people, more isolated—in psychoanalytic terms, he was "heavily defensive." He had lost touch with childhood friends. "I focused too much on achieving external success and quality—tenure, salary, all of that," he says. "I tried to please."

In 1994, on sabbatical at Berkeley, he plunged into a depression and into more serious therapy. A friend recommended a therapist there, and he began going twice a week. "I started to feel like it was reaching a crisis," he recalls. "My marital problems became more evident...my low self-esteem...it was all plummeting."

Returning to Ann Arbor, he again turned to friends for advice and was referred to two therapists—one a PhD psychologist, the other an MD training in psychoanalysis at MPI. After trying both out for a month, "I picked the analyst," he says.

By then, he had tried cognitive-behavioral therapy, once- and twice-weekly psychotherapy, even going on sabbatical—and nothing had worked. Despite his outward success, he says, "things were going badly in my life." So when his therapist suggested switching from psychotherapy to more intensive psychoanalysis, he took the leap.

In his own work, he collected data, so the long-term process made some sense to him. And "I liked the idea that someone would be listening to me every day." But "it was odd" making the transition—from two times a week to five, from sitting in

a chair to lying on the couch. No longer able to see his therapist's face, "I was on my own more—I was forced to realize the difference between what was in my head and the other person's. I could be quiet at times, let my mind wander, free-associate more."

When he started in the mid-1990s, he paid \$90 for a forty-five minute session; that increased to \$130 by the time he finished ten years later. Insurance initially covered some of the therapy. But after that, he says, "it was entirely out of pocket."

During that time, his life went through major changes—he divorced and has since remarried. But the analysis itself was an incremental process. "There have been three 'aha moments' over the ten years," Mason says—times "when

I saw in a different way my neurotic behavior. It was stuff we'd talked about for months or a year."

One breakthrough concerned his relationship with music. "I was a moderately serious piano student as a child," Mason explains. His teacher thought he should pursue it, but he suffered from such severe performance anxiety that he stopped actively working on music as a teenager. Later, in his twenties, he played for fun. During analysis, however, "I started thinking harder about what was important to me. I became more serious [about playing] than ever."

Analysis also spurred him to reconnect with childhood friends. And it helped him understand "how complex my relationships are—with students, for example. Over time the relationships are not only teacher-student, but part parent-child, and there are more other types of feelings that come in. It [analysis] has helped me draw the boundaries."



COURTESY TODD PINTER

Jeff Mason's U-M career was flourishing, but his personal life was "plummeting" when he started his ten-year analysis. One "aha moment" revived a dormant interest in music; he now practices daily and attends an annual piano camp.

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Freud believed that we all unconsciously replay important childhood relationships in our adult lives—a phenomenon he called "transference." "In outer life we have skirmishes with transference," says MPI's Rao. "In analysis we make it a systematic exploration, with the hope that because [the childhood relationship] comes alive in the transference, we learn about the past that much more."

Analysis seeks not just to understand childhood conflicts but to reshape them. MPI's Jim Hansell calls it "the best method we have for learning how and why we unwittingly recreate in adulthood our own childhood hells, and for providing a second chance to grow up."

"I spent a lot of time unconscious, not recognizing what the real problem was," Mason says. "I got very good at avoiding pain and not dealing with difficult feelings." Exploring emotions in analysis "is almost like learning a new language—you don't know the grammar, context, structure."

Mason says, for instance, that he has a strong tendency "to feel responsible for the other person's happiness—I worried I was wasting [my analyst's] time—I would look out for him."

"That is how I felt for my father—it was my fault my dad didn't have a happy life...It sounds so simple now, that I had things in reverse—I was the kid, it wasn't my job to keep my father happy. And it's not my fault if someone else is unhappy."

"I still fall into that trap, but analysis has made me more aware—I take more notice of it."

That issue arose again when Mason decided he was ready to terminate his analysis. "My analyst didn't think that I was ready, and I gave it time—part of my neu-

rotic structure is that I like to please people." And he could see his analyst's point. "I didn't feel I was done. In certain ways, I did relive struggles and pains of childhood, but I didn't completely let go. I didn't complete the transference. I was still avoiding pain. I probably didn't confront certain things—but I feel OK about that."

Finally, after a year of discussion, "I convinced myself that it [termination] was the right thing to do. If I wasn't ready to make that decision, then maybe I wasn't ready to stop the treatment."

One reason the process takes so long, Mason says, is that "you are learning to be your own analyst—that's the goal.... In sound-bite summary, intentionally superficial, you want to know what and why you're feeling, when you're feeling it. And if you can reach that stage, you'll be able to manage your life relationships."

Looking back at his own analysis, Mason says, "I felt it was a big success. I feel much better. I don't loathe myself. I feel comfortable with my decisions and [was] able to help my kids through the hard time of the divorce." (One son is now a junior at the U-M, the other a high school senior.)

And he has the pleasure of his music. "I practice now about two hours a day," Mason says. "I go to a piano institute each year for ten days. I still have terrible performance anxiety, but I don't think of it as pleasing people anymore, but of pleasing myself."

The time he spends at the annual camp "puts a burden on my wife," he admits. "But my family is very supportive. I no longer feel guilty—it's a positive thing. It makes me a better person."

Asked if his family benefits from that improvement, though, he's careful not to take responsibility for their happiness. "You'd have to ask them!" he laughs. ■

An "Old Trauma"

Etta Saxe earned her PhD in psychology at the U-M in 1965 and went on to study psychoanalysis with disciples of Sigmund Freud. She was a therapist at the Detroit Psychiatric Institute and was the first female president of the Michigan Society for Psychoanalytic Psychology (MSPP). Yet she could never legally call herself a psychoanalyst—because she wasn't a medical doctor.

For most of the twentieth century, physicians controlled psychoanalysis in America. Because she lacked an MD, Saxe's training was dismissed as "bootlegged." Her mentors, Richard and Editha Sterba, both trained at the Vienna Psychoanalytic Institute—but only Richard, who was also a physician, could legally call himself a psychoanalyst after they fled to the U.S. in 1938.

In the Viennese tradition, Richard Sterba continued to train non-physicians to do analysis. In 1953, the American Psychoanalytic Association (APsAA) retaliated by stripping him of his teaching credentials and discrediting the institute he headed.

"It's an old trauma that's never been healed," says Jim Hansell. The conflict over who can learn psychoanalysis—and who can teach it—explains why two separate groups offer analytic training locally: the Michigan Psychoanalytic Institute (MPI), where Hansell is a training analyst, and the Michigan Psychoanalytic Council (MPC). Local analyst Murray Meisels, a founding member of MPC, calls the groups' relationship "separate but hostile."

In the 1980s, four PhD psychologists sued the APsAA, contending that the group's exclusion of non-physicians violated antitrust laws. In an out-of-court settlement, APsAA agreed to open analytic training to "psychologists and other qualified non-medical clinicians." But many therapists in Saxe's group, the MSPP, didn't wait for their old rivals' blessing. Instead, they created MPC and began offering their own training in psychoanalysis.

Ironically, the settlement turned out to be a lifesaver for MPI as well. By then, many fewer psychiatrists were seeking training, as physicians shifted their orientation from analysis toward medication. "Indeed if we had won the lawsuit to restrict entry of non-MDs into our organization in 1988, we would have been impoverished and...far more vulnerable," writes former APsAA president Newell Fischer. Today, only one-third of MPI's analysts in training are physicians, and three-quarters are women.

—J.S.

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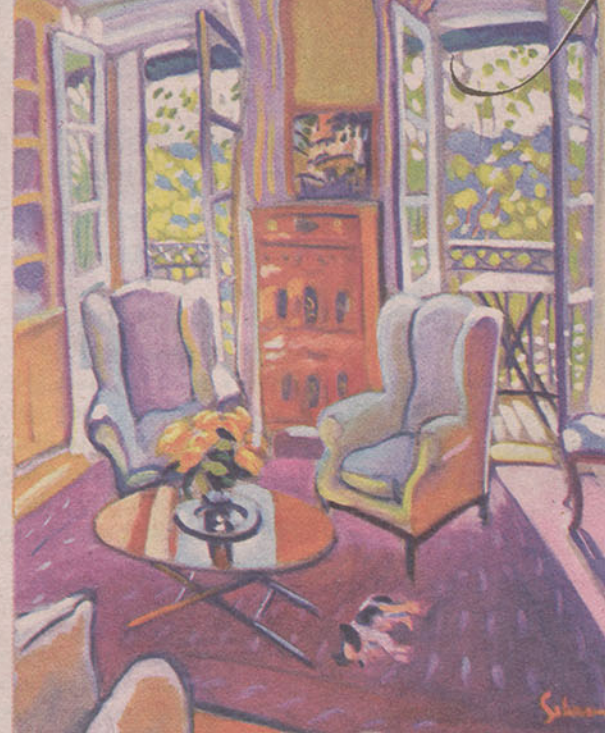
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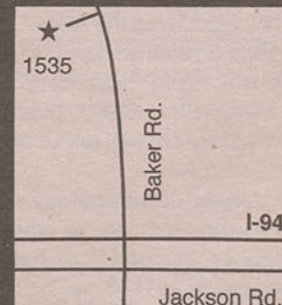
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Horses in TROUBLE

As another harsh winter looms, local horse lovers are planning a controversial solution.

by Michael Betzold

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

People in the horse business say they've never seen anything like it. Last winter, as the recession hit hard and hay prices skyrocketed, horses were abandoned in state parks. The Humane Society fielded calls about half-starved horses standing in farmers' fields.

Owning a horse is expensive in the best of times. But when your house is foreclosed, you lose your job, or your pay is cut, that horse can become an intolerable burden. As pastures freeze over, the specter of starving steeds again worries local horse experts. "It's probably going to be a whole lot worse this winter," says Barbara Baker, who runs a shelter for abandoned horses in Howell.

Baker's rescue group, Horse's Haven, has no more space: there already are fifty-five horses on the farm and another twenty-five that she has placed in foster homes. Still, Baker says, she gets 400 to 500 emails and phone calls a week from desperate people—and law enforcement agencies—looking for a place to put unwanted horses. "I get calls from sheriffs all over the state. There's no place to put 'em."

At the Humane Society of Huron Valley, cruelty and rescue personnel are undergoing extra training, and staffers are trying to locate possible foster homes. Last winter, says director Tanya Hilgendorf, there were some "pretty severe cases of starved horses." She, too, expects the crisis to deepen this winter.

"This is a dire situation," she warns.

The 2007 Michigan Equine Survey found 150,000 horses in Michigan—more than half of them in private residences. Today, boarding stables around Ann Arbor are tightening their belts, and many individual horse owners are desperate for a way to get out.

In late October, former Pioneer High equestrian coach Marie Seddon found 900 horses advertised online in Michigan for \$500 or less. Most were ten years old or younger, the prime age for good horses.

Prices that low mean that people are willing to unload their animals at a loss—before last winter, a decent riding horse cost at least \$2,000, and good show horses went for much more.

"Horse people will do whatever they can to keep a horse," says Diana Murphy, director of Voice for Horses, an equine shelter in Toledo. "But now, there are free horses all over the Internet." And that's creating another problem, she says: "People are getting horses for free, but they've never owned a horse, so they don't know what it costs to take care of them. So now they're trying to get rid of them."

At a recent auction near Onsted, in Lenawee County, twenty or so horses were up for grabs. Some had seen better days: one saggy old horse stood listlessly in a pen. Other owners rode steeds that looked perfectly serviceable around the barn. One man optimistically said he hoped to get \$1,000 for a horse with no registration papers. But experienced hands say it's impossible to count on a fair price at an auction these days. One woman was trying to sell a mare and her yearling, horses that had been practically dumped on her in exchange for some riding lessons. Another woman told of a friend who had paid \$75 to register her horse at an auction but got only \$50 for it.

The market is so depressed that some auctions have closed down. So have some rescue operations, as the growing need exhausts their resources.

Suzanne Dooley-Hash, an emergency room physician at the University of Michigan Hospital who lives in Chelsea, adopted two miniature mules from Horse's Haven, where she volunteers. If she had more land, she says, "I'd adopt more horses." But, she cautions, between feed, farrier, and vet bills, "it's a lot more expensive than you would think."

A few stables have closed, and others

Emily Simmons (center) rescued Maddie, but with shelters full, she's joined Marie Seddon (left) and Halley Sissom to organize a last-chance clinic for unwanted horses.

are feeling the pinch, some of them lowering their boarding fees. Rose Sheffer, who runs Rose Haven Farm in Grass Lake Township, says she has a "smaller, more committed group of people" boarding and training there and is getting by with creative adaptation—offering more group lessons, for example.

Though you can get horses, trailers, and tack dirt cheap right now, it's no time for dilettantes, says Sheffer. The economy, she says, has "taken out some people who probably shouldn't have been in the horse business to begin with."

Those people have lost money. The animals stand to lose much more. Says Barbara Baker, "It's going to be very, very bad."

In the worst cases, horses are left to starve because their owners can't afford the \$400 or so it costs to euthanize and bury them. Fearing hundreds of horses are at risk of this fate in coming months, some local horse people and organizations are planning a radical solution: a last-chance clinic for unwanted horses.

Organizing as Help MI Horses, the group—which includes Seddon, Skyline High equestrian coach Halley Sissom, Romulus stable owner Emily Sim-

mons, the Michigan Equine Partnership, and the thoroughbred horse rescue group CANTER—hopes to host a weekend clinic by mid-January. As at similar events in Denver and in northern California, owners could bring unwanted horses to offer for adoption. Those that are unclaimed would be euthanized at no cost.

When Help MI Horses approached the Humane Society of the United States for financial support, it found the national organization adamantly opposed to the idea. "We don't want to set a precedent of euthanasia-on-demand," says Keith Dane, director of equine protection for HSUS. "We don't subscribe to the philosophy that if an animal is no longer of use to you, it should be euthanized."

But the plan has the backing of Michigan's state veterinarian, Steve Halstead. He believes he can get vets to donate their services to examine and, if necessary, euthanize the horses. HSHV's Hilgendorf also supports the idea. "We would prefer to see all horses adopted," she says. "But all the rescue places are full. If there's no alternative, as a last resort, I think it's the most humane thing to do. It's better than horses dying of starvation out in the field." ■

Fake Hay

In 2008, a rainy summer resulted in one of the worst hay harvests in memory, pushing prices from \$1.50 or \$2 a bale to \$5 a bale. This year's harvest was better—but hay farmer Lee Maulbetsch of Northfield Township says he can't afford to charge much less than a year ago.

"I don't think we'll see a drop in price," says Maulbetsch, who's been baling and selling hay for thirty years. "There's not many people in the business anymore."

Maulbetsch says grain prices were at a historic high last year, and a lot of farmers switched acreage from hay to more profitable beans. And with so many horse owners getting out of the business, demand has dropped.

"We used to have loads lined up all the time," he says. "Now we're taking care of our core customers. We're not seeing the shoppers like we used to."

But he is seeing something unprecedented—enterprising competitors who are literally undercutting his hay business: "If there's weeds on a lot, anything green growing on a construction site, they cut it down and bale it up" and pass it off as cheap hay.

—M.B.



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Lisa Reardon wrote gruesome tales about terrible family secrets. Then one day something snapped—and she went after her father with a shotgun.

The Plot Thickens

by Michael Betzold

On the night of August 21, according to police, Lisa Reardon appeared at the door of her parents' house in Dexter Township carrying a 20-gauge shotgun. She opened fire on her father, George Hicks, from a distance of seventeen feet. Her first shot missed, and he turned and ran. She pursued him into the house, continuing to fire. Pellets grazed his legs and buttocks, causing minor injuries.

The forty-seven-year-old writer, known for her gritty accounts of gruesome family tragedies, then fled from the scene in her Subaru. She was arrested a short time later in Livingston County. Police say they found two six-inch knives and a duffel bag packed with clothes in her car.

Prosecutors charged Reardon with attempted murder. When her court-appointed lawyers requested a lower bail, prosecutors replied that if her aim had been a little better, Reardon would be facing trial for first-degree murder—because, they wrote, she'd been “plotting the murder of her father for quite some time.”

If so, it was a scenario that might have been lifted from one of Reardon's own books. Many of her stories deal with dark family secrets told with unflinching frankness. On her website, Reardon calls her first novel, *Billy Dead*, a “realistic portrayal of family life, murder, abuse, incest, and self-mutilation.” When it came out in 2000, a *New Yorker* review compared Reardon favorably to Faulkner: “...like him, she can summon up the menace of the past, rustling in the dark.” In a blurb on the book's back cover, writer Alice Munro praised it as “a brave, heartwrenching debut” and confessed, “I couldn't look away.”

Reardon's novels are like highway accidents that way—if you gawk, you might be drawn into a nightmare. Not for the squeamish, *Billy Dead* opens with the news that the adult narrator's older brother has been brutally murdered; he suspects their younger sister of the crime. Within the first two chapters, unsparing flashbacks describe scenes of incest and horrid retribution. Reardon's website summarizes the plot of 2002's *Blameless* this way: “Lack of accountability leads to a dead child, adultery, alcoholism, nervous breakdowns, and insomnia.” The theme of her 2004 novel *The Mercy Killers* is suicide.



ILLUSTRATION: JERRY LEMENU

Prosecutors charged Reardon with attempted murder. When her lawyers requested a lower bail, prosecutors replied that if her aim had been a little better, Reardon would be facing trial for first-degree murder—because, they wrote, she'd been “plotting the murder of her father for quite some time.”

She advertises it as “Death, drugs, war, child abuse, and plenty of laughs.” All three books feature violence against children.

Following news of her arrest, friends wrote letters of support to public defender Lloyd Powell, whose office was appointed to represent her. (Though her books were well reviewed, at the time of her arrest she was earning less than \$30,000 a year and had just \$2,000 in the bank, according to court records). The most revealing letter was from Julie Hamberg, Reardon's close friend since they were sixth graders in Milan. “Lisa is a big writer, interested in overarching, vital life questions,” wrote Hamberg, until recently the artistic director of the Southern Repertory Premiere Professional Theater in New Orleans. “Her nuanced writing is indicative of one who has turned

a troubled upbringing into art that always allows us to truly comprehend the pain of others.”

Born Lisa Ann Hicks in January 1962, Reardon graduated in 1980 from Milan High School. She worked odd jobs—making auto springs and caramel apples; clerking at a record store and a motel; cashing at a drug store, farmers' market, and truck stop—and took classes at the U-M. In 1988 she won the university's prestigious Hopwood Award for drama. She graduated the following year with a bachelor's in English and theater.

Moving on to the Yale School of Drama, she earned a master's in playwriting. Her plays, initially published under the pen name Lisa Wing, included the inaugural production at the Purple Rose Theatre, *Blush at Nothing*. Other plays were performed in Los Angeles, Florida, and off-Broadway in New York City, where she was living in the early 1990s under her newly adopted legal name, Lisa Reardon.

Unlike her consistently dark novels, Reardon's plays experiment with genres and subjects. She describes *Blush at Nothing* as a “silly romantic farce with mistaken identities, hidden treasures, a pig farm, and a ghost.” *The Sweet Trade* is about lesbian pirates; *Cost of Living* concerns factory workers and labor unrest. *Gloria* is about a cartoon female warrior vampire who “goes on an unauthorized killing spree in her creator's hometown.” Her friend Julie Hamberg directed Reardon's one-act play *Wendy and Danny*—in which “two criminals take a hostage who turns the tables”—at New York's Circle Repertory Theatre.

Some of the plays were commissioned for the Manhattan Theatre Club by her mentor, Milan Stitt. Reardon's playwriting teacher at both the U-M and Yale, Stitt became a lifelong friend. They traveled together, and she taught creative writing at a school Stitt founded in New York, the Gotham Writers' Workshop. Reardon, who is divorced, was teaching online courses for Gotham at the time of the shooting.

In the mid-1990s, Reardon switched from writing

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The Plot Thickens

plays to writing novels. She moved from New York to St. Paul, Minnesota, then to Chicago, and eventually to Whitmore Lake and Ann Arbor. But she's published nothing since the *The Mercy Killers* came out in 2004; her website says she has been working on a fourth novel.

Reardon promoted her books with readings at Ann Arbor bookstores, but she was not a prominent part of the local literary scene. "You wouldn't see her at the conventions, or at the book festivals," recalls Jamie Agnew, co-owner of Aunt Agatha's mystery bookstore. He remembers Reardon as "a very nice person" and "kind of hip and edgy, as writers are." While her books are "dark and edgy," he adds, "a lot of people who write very dark books don't shoot their fathers."

In addition to writing, Reardon has often worked with troubled youth, including teaching writing workshops at the Cook County (Illinois) juvenile detention center. In December 2006, she was hired at Boysville, a medium-security treatment facility for youth in Clinton, now run by Holy Cross Children's Services. Boysville houses both delinquents who have been ordered there by the courts and abused children who've been placed there by social services. According to Boysville spokesman Gary Tester, Reardon worked exclusively with the former group—the perps—first as a daytime treatment specialist

and later on the night shift checking beds. She reportedly started a writing group there as well.

At the time of the shooting, Reardon was living in southeast Ann Arbor with her boyfriend, Michael Harrington. Hamberg writes that Reardon is "dedicated to her mother, three sisters, brothers, and nieces," often babysitting her sister Ramona's two girls. But despite the idyllic picture, Reardon's life had long been shadowed.

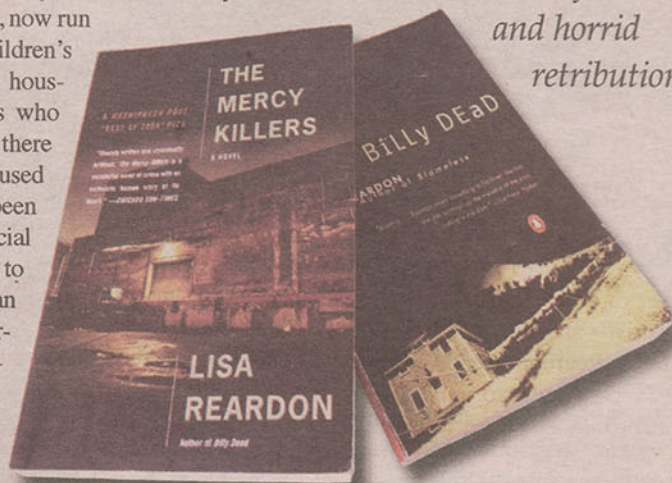
In February 2006, according to a report in her court file, she checked into St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in a suicidal panic. She was released three weeks later to the care of psychiatrist Robert Zimmerman, who continued to treat her with weekly sessions. "She has been working with me diligently," Zimmerman wrote the court. "She herself has been traumatized severely during childhood and early adolescence."

This March, Milan Stitt died, and Reardon went to New York to help his sister with his effects. She gave impassioned eulogies at two separate memorials, one in Pittsburgh at Carnegie Mellon University, Stitt's last teaching post, and another in June at the Manhattan Theatre Club.

Her mentor's death seems to have

plunged Reardon into a dark fury. The prosecutor's motion against a bond reduction quotes a message to "Julie" (presumably Hamberg): "Ramona and I have had some big ugly arguments because she and John insist on taking the girls to his house to visit. I'm opposed to this since the average pedophile has anywhere from 80 to 120 victims in a lifetime....So I walk a fine line between trying to protect them and having Ramona boot me out of their lives instead of Dad....It's gotten to the point where I sometimes write down little

Reardon's novels are like highway accidents—if you gawk, you might be drawn into a nightmare. Not for the squeamish, Billy Dead opens with the news that the adult narrator's older brother has been brutally murdered; he suspects their younger sister of the crime. Within the first two chapters, unsparing flashbacks describe scenes of incest and horrid retribution.



plans on how to erase him from the picture in order to prevent the possibility of him hurting them. A hunting accident, brake failure on his truck, an injection of bleach or antifreeze. It doesn't even seem like it would be murder...more like cutting a cancer before it spreads any further. There isn't a reason in the world why that man should be alive, especially when someone like Milan dies."

On Reardon's website there are two pictures of a cat named Godfrey. Described as "her boon companion for 17 years," Godfrey died just hours before Reardon attacked her father. Stitt's death enraged her—but apparently it was Godfrey's that caused her emotions to boil over.

Shortly after the shooting, according to prosecution filings, Reardon called her sister April and said: "I just cannot believe I missed. I will never get another chance." She also is alleged to have said that she "did not think it through good enough because she should have buried [Godfrey] before she tried."

After Reardon was arrested, she was

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initially denied bail. Then it was set at half a million dollars. Her public defender, Christopher Renna, filed a motion to reduce it, introducing into the court record the letter from Hamberg—and a statement from Zimmerman, her psychiatrist, that promised “there would be no further repetition” of the attack. In rebuttal, the prosecution presented Reardon’s letter to “Julie,” the journal entry, and the phone call to her sister. The prosecution’s brief also pointed out that Zimmerman had written that he could not “determine the psychic contribution to this tragic event” and did not give a specific diagnosis or treatment plan. The prosecution argued that some family members still feared Reardon, and, with numerous friends out of state, she was a risk to flee before trial.

District 14A judge Richard Conlin denied the motion to reduce bond and granted her defense’s motion for a psychiatric examination. On November 17, she was found competent to stand trial, and a preliminary exam was set for November 24.

Hamberg issued a firm “no comment” when reached by phone in New Orleans. Asked about Reardon’s work at Gotham Writers’ Workshop, a woman named Linda who answered the phone there said she would have to check with the director and then returned to announce: “I’m supposed to say we have no comment.” Harrington, who described himself as Reardon’s partner, insisted he couldn’t comment because “it’s not time for that yet” but promised “I’ve got a lot more” to say.

But while no one is speaking for her directly now, Lisa Reardon’s version of her motivation is an open book: grist for her novels, hinted at strongly in Hamberg’s letter of support, referred to by her psychiatrist—and spelled out more specifically in Reardon’s letter to Hamberg that was introduced into public record not by the defense, but by the prosecution.

The accused in the shooting is also an accuser.

Reardon’s mother won’t discuss her daughter’s allegations. Reached by phone at their home in Dexter Township, George Hicks initially says “no comment” as well. But when asked whether he is aware that his daughter’s accusations against him are part of the court record, introduced in their clearest form by the prosecution, he volunteers: “That’s because I told them—the prosecutors—that it never happened. I’ve told everyone that.” Asked to explain, he adds: “She didn’t bring it up until she was twenty-eight years old. Maybe somebody did something to her, but it wasn’t me.”

Hicks continues: “She’s accused me of that for nineteen years. She’s been sick. She’s a very sick child. She’s always accused me, but I’d just ask her, ‘Where did it happen? When did it happen?’ and she wouldn’t say anything. I’ve had to live with that.”

As to Reardon’s psychiatric evaluation, her father comments: “I don’t know how you can evaluate someone like that. Let’s just hope they find out what’s wrong with her.”

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For some of us, the holiday shopping season starts December 26, with the post-holiday sales. For others, Christmas Eve finds us glassy-eyed and desperate, wondering if we can pass off jumper cables from the corner all-night service station as a thoughtful gift, and, if so, how in the world we'll wrap them.

For most of us, though, the holiday season begins--oh, right about now. If you've missed the hints your loved ones have been dropping, have no idea what to get Grandma, and find yourself feeling generally daunted, the following suggestions may be just what you need to wrap things up--with time enough to spare for a cup of eggnog by the fire.

At this time of year, there's a good chance company's coming. Get your carpet ready for the holidays with **King Kleaners** in Pinckney. King's process deep cleans, lifts matted fibers, and makes your carpet smell fresh and look great—all using gentle sponges and no harsh chemicals. Plus it reduces allergens by up to 85 percent! You

can even walk on it right away after it's done. You can see more about the process at www.hostdry.com.

Pick up some cookies for Santa as well as a gift basket or two for your friends at **Mrs. Fields**, now with two locations—one at Briarwood, and one on campus. You can put together your own custom arrangement or choose from one of the company's top-selling selections, beautifully packaged with a hand-tied bow. You can even bypass Rudolph and his brethren and get your gift delivered direct from the store to anywhere on campus and within a five-mile radius of Briarwood mall.

The foodies on your list might also appreciate a gift certificate, available in any denomination, for **Asian Fuzion Café** on Washtenaw, a multicultural delight offering authentic Chinese and Thai cuisine, Vietnamese noodle dishes like pho, and all-American diner-style breakfasts (updated with vegetarian-friendly options like tofu omelets). There's a kids' menu; New Orleans-inspired gumbo, jambalaya, and étouffée; and plans in

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the works to add teriyaki. It's a small world, after all.

Combat holiday stress with a trip to **Ann Arbor Healing Arts**, where east meets west with a combination of body work, acupuncture, and traditional Chinese medicine. The clinic specializes in pain relief, musculoskeletal disorders, gynecological issues including fertility and PMS, oncology support, and preventive health and wellness care for men and women. Give a gift certificate, and the happy recipient can choose from Thai bodywork, Maya abdominal massage, and myofascial and neuromuscular trigger-point therapy, as well as acupuncture and herbal medicine.

Give yourself or a friend the gift of a whole new look for the new year. At **Jacques Dessange Salon & Spa**, the staff specializes in contemporary, sophisticated hair styling, color techniques, hair and skin treatments, and a comprehensive line of makeup, hair, skin, body, and sun care products. Dessange plays in the big leagues; the international Jacques Dessange company

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Give a trip to a virtual fountain of youth with a gift certificate to the beautifying spa services at **Bellanina** on Fourth Avenue. Bellanina also offers a full line of cutting-edge skin care products they call "cosmeceuticals": anti-aging skin care products with active ingredients like alpha lipoic acid, DMAE, vitamin C, glycolic acid, collagen, and retinol, as well as all-natural skin care products made from plant extracts.

Got a soccer player on your list? **Soccer Plus** is one of Michigan's largest soccer retailers, and the staff is made up of coaches, players, and avid soccer fans who make it their business to stay on top of cutting-edge products and training trends. The store's got it all, from shoes, shin guards, socks, and shorts to bags, balls, and field equipment.

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Does the holiday school break have your kids—or you—climbing the walls? Make it an intentional, joyful adventure with a gift certificate to **Planet Rock**. The expert staff makes it super easy for first-time climbers, there are a variety of climbing

classes for kids ages 3–19, and the facility, just off Jackson Road, has extended holiday hours over the break. Check out the website at www.planet-rock.com for a huge selection of gear, gift cards, and membership passes.

Commemorate the holidays with a formal family portrait by veteran local photographer **John Shultz**, whose work goes well beyond the mere recording of faces and events to capture personality, relationships, emotions, and that special story every family has to tell. Shultz is also an avid traveler and talented painter, transforming the many photographs he has taken around the world into abstract works of art in oil and pastel. His work is on view and for sale in his Main Street studio year round.

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Equally high-quality footwear and other fashions for the younger set can be found at Kerrytown's **Elephant Ears**, where the children's clothing for

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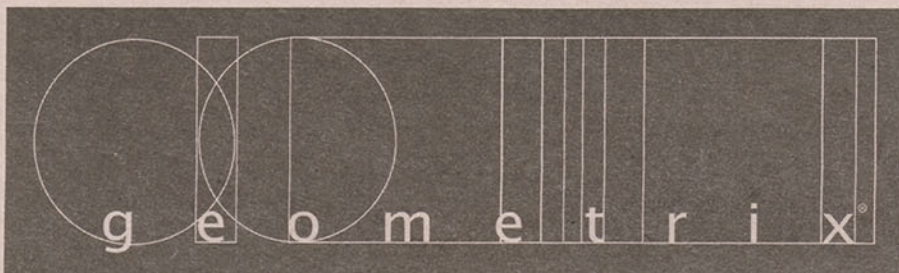
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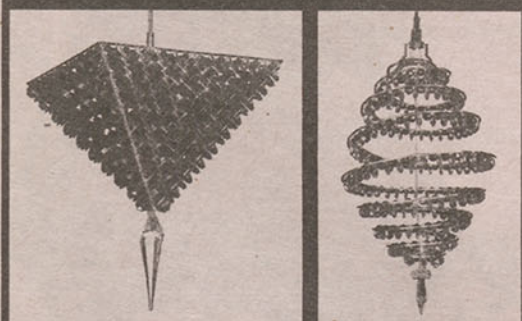
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Falling Water Books & Collectibles carries a vast selection of holiday cards as well as a host of fair trade, eco-friendly, and recycled products. The Main Street store's fascinating inventory includes fossils, jewelry, contemplative music, handcrafted dolls, and unique gifts from around the world. The book selection is eclectic, ranging from contemporary fiction to

the uniquely metaphysical.

Artists and collectors alike on your list will love a gift certificate to **Format Framing & Gallery** at the corner of Plymouth and Broadway. The store's experienced, creative staff offer incredible value for the services they render, including expert framing from the shop's extensive selection of metal and wood frames, mat cutting and mounting (including mounting needlework, fabric, and oversized pieces). There's also a wonderful collection of local artists' and photographers' work, too, as well as fine art posters, antique prints and maps, children's posters, and original cards.

Hosting the holidays at your house? Make it a memorable experience this year and for years to come with a beautifully handcrafted dining room set from **Amish Tables** on Jackson Road. The Narowski family believes that "family happens at the dining room table"—in fact, they've built an entire business out of it. Their largest table expands to seat up to twenty-two people! The store sells bedroom,



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For quality indoor and outdoor lighting fixtures, check out **Gross Electric** on South Industrial—celebrating its 100th year as a family-owned and operated business in 2010! The showroom is packed with an amazing selection of fixtures, lamps, ceiling fans, furniture, and accessories, and is one of the area's best resources for bulbs—they carry more than 1,000 different wattages, shapes, and sizes! A staff of certified lighting designers and specialists is on hand to make sure you get just what you need.

The holidays are a crummy

time to catch a virus—and that includes your computer. If the family desktop or your laptop is running slow, bring it to **Wiz Kids**, your source for comprehensive computer solutions. Wiz Kids services all makes and models, including gaming systems; offers top-quality, personal service and affordable pricing; and can even give you same-day service so you can get your computer cleaned up while you do the rest of your holiday shopping.

For one-stop shopping and shipping, it's hard to beat **Georgetown Gifts** on Wash-tenaw. This local, family-owned store offers a host of wonderful gifts for under \$10, including U-M and EMU memorabilia, collectibles like Beanie Babies, WebKinz and TY stuffed animals, Hallmark ornaments and cards, candles, accessories, and more. The shop also houses a post office, so you can buy and mail a gift in one fell swoop.

And if worse comes to worst? They probably have a box just the right size for those jumper cables.

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December Events

We want to know about your event!

Please send a press release (no phone calls, please).

- **By mail:** John Hinchey, Calendar Editor, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104
- **By fax:** 769-3375
- **By email:** hinch@aaobserver.com
- **After-hours drop box:** right side of the Observer's front door facing Catherine

What gets in?

We give priority to Ann Arbor events. Always include a contact person's telephone number. Please try to submit materials as early as possible; items submitted after the deadline (the tenth day of the preceding month) might not get in.

Next month's deadline:

All appropriate materials received by the tenth day of the month for the upcoming month will be used as space permits; materials submitted later might not get in (but will be added to arborweb).

arborweb:

The entire Observer events calendar for the month is available at **arborweb: www.arborweb.com**. This calendar is updated daily. If you have an event not listed in the print calendar, or want to update a listed event, please send it and we'll post it on arborweb.

WARNING!

To save space, many recurrent events are noted only the first time they occur. This includes many weekly and biweekly events. To find a full list of events for the last Wednesday in the month, for example, readers should also check earlier Wednesday listings, especially the first Wednesday.

www.arborweb.com

1 TUESDAY

★**Social Bridge:** Ann Arbor Senior Center. Every Tues. & Wed. All seniors age 50 & over invited to play bridge. No partner required. Also, Tues. at 10 a.m., **Scrabble**, 9:30 a.m.-noon (Tues.) & 12:45-4 p.m. (Wed.), Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769-5911.

★**Winter Democratic Rides:** Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. Daily. The assembled riders choose their own pace, distance, and destination. Note: Riders should be prepared to take care of themselves on all AABTS rides. Carry a water bottle, a spare tire or tube, a pump, and snacks. 10 a.m. (daily) & 1 p.m. (Sat. & Sun. only), meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 761-6253 (morning ride), 994-5908 (afternoon ride).

★**Preschool Storytimes:** Ann Arbor District Library. Every Tues. & Wed. through Dec. 9. Stories and songs for kids age 2 & up (accompanied by an adult). Note: These storytimes are also offered (through the week of Dec. 7) at the Malletts Creek (Wed., 10-10:30 a.m.), Traverwood (Tues., 11-11:30 a.m., & Wed., 6-6:30 p.m.), and Pittsfield (Thurs., 7-7:30 p.m., & Fri., 10-10:30 a.m.) branches. 10-10:30 a.m. (Tues.) & 11-11:30 a.m. (Wed.), AADL youth department story room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-8301 (main library), 327-4200 (branches).

★**Jewish Older Adults:** Jewish Community Center. Every Tues. Activities begin at 11 a.m. with "Energy Exercise" (\$4), a 60-minute exercise program led by Maria Farquhar, followed at 1 p.m. by mah-jongg, cards, board games, and quilting and other craft projects. Also, at 1:30 p.m., Yiddish Tish, a Yiddish conversation group. Homemade buffet luncheon (\$3) available at noon. All invited. 11 a.m.-3 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free (except as noted). 971-0990.

★**Noon Lecture Series:** U-M Center for Chinese Studies. Dec. 1 & 8. Talks by U-M and visiting scholars. Free sandwiches, cookies, and coffee served. This month's topics are "Caochangdi: Beijing Inside Out—Farmers, Floaters, Taxi Drivers, Artists, and the International Art Mob Challenge and Remake the City" (Dec. 1) and "Visualizing the State in Early Modern England and China" (Dec. 8). Noon-1 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764-6308.



Concordia University's 32nd Annual Boar's Head Festival takes place Dec. 5 & 6.

FILMS

55 Film Screenings

John Hinchey & Katie Whitney

GALLERIES

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Charles McGee at Eighty-Five

Katie Whitney

Katie Whitney

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Retro-nuevo

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Sing Along with Santa goes global

Frances Kai-Hwa Wang

61 Eastman Wind Ensemble

The best band in the land

James Leonard

MUSIC AT NIGHTSPOTS

66 Nightspots Schedule

Sari Brown

John Hinchey

Stephanie Kadel-Taras

★**"Monotheism and Mutiny: Holy War in Ancient Judaism":** U-M Frankel Center for Judaic Studies. Lecture by Tel Aviv University Jewish history professor Aaron Oppenheimer. Noon, 202 S. Thayer, room 2022. Free. 763-9047.

★**Yedda Morrison:** EMU English Department Bathhouse Reading Series. Reading by this San Francisco experimental poet and visual artist, a founding editor of *Tripwire: a Journal of Experimental Poetics and Visual Art*. 12:30 p.m., 310 A EMU Student Center, 900 Oakwood (between Washtenaw & N. Huron River Dr.), Ypsilanti. Free. 487-1310.

★**"Sound Advice: Finding Success in the Era of New Media":** WCC. Panel discussion with Grammy-winning music producer Luis Resto, Ghostly International president Sam Valenti, SoulTracks.com founder Chris Rizik, and Fleming Artists marketing director Don Kline. 3-5 p.m., 101 WCC Morris Lawrence Bldg., 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free. Reservations recommended. 677-5146.

★**U-M English Department Zell Visiting Writers Series.** Dec. 1, 3, & 7 (different programs). Readings by poets and fiction writers. Today: 2006 poet laureate Donald Hall (see review, p. 43) reads selections from his work that address memory and loss. Best known for poems about baseball and his wife's illness and death, Hall's work "is in the Frostian tradition of the plainspoken rural poet," says a *Washington Post* review. He "may be as sophisticated as any American poet," but he has "the barnyard credibility to write about the lives of farmers and their animals." In conjunction with **Day With(out) Art**, which memorializes the impact of AIDS on artists and performers. 5 p.m., U-M Museum of Art Helmut Stern Auditorium, 525 S. State. Free. 615-3710, 764-0395.

Magic: The Gathering Tournament: Get Your Game On. Every Sun.-Fri., except Dec. 25. All invited to compete in tournaments of this popular collectible card game using standard constructed (Sun. & Thurs.), vintage (Mon.), Elder Dragon Highlander (Tues.), Legacy (Wed.), and booster draft (Fri.) decks. Prizes. Bring your own cards Sun.-Thurs. 6 p.m. (Mon.-Fri.) & 1 p.m. (Sun.), *Get Your Game On*, 709 Packard. \$5 (Tues., free; Fri., \$15 includes cards). 786-3746.

★**"Remembering Ryan White":** HIV/AIDS Resource Center/Hemophilia Foundation of Michigan. Panel discussion about the hemophiliac boy who became the poster child for HIV/AIDS awareness after he was expelled from school in 1984 because of his infection. Part of **World AIDS Week** (for a full schedule of events at the U-M, see umich.edu/aids). 6-8 p.m., 1690 School of Public Health I, 1415 Washington Hts. Free. 572-9355.

Paul Klinger's Easy Street Jazz Band. Every Tues. Dixieland and swing by this local ensemble led by saxophonist and trumpeter Klinger. Cash bar; limited sandwich menu. 6-9 p.m. (doors open at 4 p.m.), *Zal Gaz Grotto*, 2070 W. Stadium. \$10 at the door only. 663-1202.

★**"Knit Happens":** Ann Arbor Stitch 'n' Bitch. Every Tues. All knitters invited to work on their current projects and swap knitting tips. 6:30-8:30 p.m., location TBA. Free. 945-3035.

★**Common Thread Knitters Club.** Dec. 1 & 15. All knitters invited to meet members of this local knitting group and exchange tips. 7 p.m., *Arborland Borders*, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 677-6948.

★**Ann Arbor Area Writers Group.** Every Tues. All local writers invited to bring samples of their writing to read and discuss. Observers welcome. 7-9 p.m., *Arborland Borders*, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 665-8194.

★**"Tile-Making":** Ann Arbor District Library. Motawi Tileworks co-owners Karim and Nawai Motawi show teens in grades 6 & up and adults how to make their own impressed clay tiles. Tiles provided. Motawi Tileworks hosts its annual "Tile Extravaganza" on Dec. 5, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., 170 Enterprise Dr. (off Jackson Rd. east of Baker). 7-8:30 p.m., AADL meeting room (4th floor), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-4555.

"The Best of 2009": Zingerman's Delicatessen. Zingerman's cofounder Ari Weinzweig discusses and offers taste samples of some of Zingerman's most notable products, including perennial favorites, obscure oddities, new foods, and old ones that hit it big this year. 7-9 p.m., *Zingerman's Next Door* (upstairs), 422 Detroit St. \$30 in advance, \$35 at the door. Space limited; reservations required. 663-3354.

English Country Dancing: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. Dec. 1, 8, 15, & 22. Historical and traditional English dancing to live music. All dances taught. No partner or experience needed. Bring flat, nonslip shoes (running shoes OK). First-timers are asked to arrive at 7 p.m. 7-9:30 p.m.,



December 2009 Event Highlights Ann Arbor District Library

All events will take place in the Downtown Library Multi-Purpose Room, unless otherwise noted.



Tuesday 1 **Motawi Tileworks: Tile Making Workshop** • Make your own tile – just in time for holiday gift giving • GRADE 6 - ADULT
7:00 - 8:30 pm

Wednesday 2 Authors **H. Mark Hildebrandt** and **Martha A. Churchill** discuss their new book *Electric Trolleys of Washtenaw County*
7:00 - 8:30 pm



Saturday 5 **Classical Bells Holiday Concert** • Michigan's premier hand bell ensemble returns for a concert for the whole family
1:00 - 2:00 pm

Sunday 6 **Comic Artists Forum** • Join guest artist **Jerzy Drozd** and share your ideas/get some ideas at this monthly forum for comic and graphic novel artists • GRADE 6 - ADULT • MALLETS CREEK BRANCH
1:00 - 3:00 pm

Sunday 6 **An Afternoon with World Performance** • Music, dance and storytelling with Russian-born musician/poet **Pavel Lion**, folk dancer **Silvia Meloche** and storyteller **Elizabeth James**
2:00 - 3:30 pm



Saturday 12 Syrian-American civil rights lawyer **Alia Malek** discusses her book *A Country Called Amreeka: Arab Roots, American Stories*
1:00 - 2:30 pm
GRADE 9 - ADULT • PITTSFIELD BRANCH

Saturday 12 **Wrap It Up!** • Create gift tags and wrap using special stamps, paper and ribbon • GRADE 4 - ADULT • TRAVERWOOD BRANCH
1:00 - 2:30 pm

Sunday 13 **China Celebration: Journey to the West** • Face painting, Chinese papercutting and short films • GRADES K - 8
2:00 - 4:00 pm
DOWNTOWN 4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM



Sunday 13 **Felt Ball Fun!** • Using wool, soapy water and your hands, make your own cool felt ball • GRADE K - ADULT • PITTSFIELD BRANCH
2:00 - 4:30 pm

Saturday 19 **Smash Kart 2009 Grand Championship Series** • The '09 season reaches its furious crescendo! If you didn't win a spot this year, come try your hand in the wildcard bracket!
12:00 - 5:00 pm
GRADES 6 - 12



Sunday 20 **3rd Annual GT Awards and Grudge Buffet Open Play**
1:00 - 4:00 pm
We'll look back on the past season, give some awards, have some food and do some game play • ALL AGES

Monday 21 **Wii Sports Resort Team Tournament for All Ages** • Bring friends, parents, grandparents or whatever and play your way through Wii Sports Resort's 12 games!
6:00 - 8:30 pm



Tuesday 22 **GameCube Nostalgia Night for All Ages** • Take a trip down Memory Card Lane for four quick tournaments on some of the Cube's best titles – including Melee!
6:00 - 8:30 pm

Tuesday 29 **Silly Stories with Laura Pershin Raynor** • Laura tells entertaining tales filled with colorful characters! • GRADE K - 3 w/ADULT
10:00 - 10:30 am



Tuesday 29 **Family Guy** writer **Cherry Cheva** discusses her career and new book *She's So Money* • GRADE 9 - ADULT
7:00 - 8:30 pm

Wednesday 30 **Mexican Hojalata Folk Art** • Press, scribe and mold tin to make a custom work of art • GRADE 4 - ADULT
2:00 - 3:00 pm

Wednesday 30 **Film • One of the Worst Movies Ever Made: Santa Claus Conquers the Martians** (NOT RATED) • GRADE 6 - ADULT
7:00 - 8:30 pm

For more information, call 327.4200 or visit our website at aadl.org

Chapel Hill Condominium clubhouse, 3350 Green Rd. (park on Burbank Dr.). \$7 (students, \$4; children age 13 & under with a parent, free). 665-7704.

★**Voices in Harmony Sweet Adelines.** Every Tues. All women invited to join the weekly rehearsals of this local 40-member barbershop harmony chorus. 7-10:30 p.m., UAW Local 898 Hall, 8975 Textile Rd. (west of Rawsonville Rd. off I-94), Ypsilanti. Free to visitors (\$20 monthly dues for those who join). 480-8843.

★**Huron Valley Harmonizers Chapter of SPEBSQSA.** Every Tues. All male singers invited to join the weekly rehearsals of this local barbershop harmony chorus. 7:30 p.m., Stony Creek United Methodist Church, 8635 Stony Creek Rd., Ypsilanti. Free to visitors (\$130 annual dues for those who join). Newcomers should call in advance: Greg Humbel at 445-1925.

★**Weekly Rehearsal: Treetown Community Chorus.** Every Tues. through Dec. 15. All invited to join this fun-loving independent local mixed chorus to sing mostly familiar tunes, along with some serious music, in various genres. David Perample directs. 7:30-9 p.m., West Side United Methodist Church, 900 S. Seventh. Free to visitors (\$80 per semester dues for those who join). (586) 504-1155.

★**Ann Arbor Camera Club.** Club members show their recent slides and prints, including those on the club's current topic, "Texture." 7:30 p.m., Wines Elementary School auditorium, 1701 Newport Rd. at Sunset. Free to visitors (\$15 annual dues for those who join). 327-4781.

★**Spanish Readers Group: Nicola's Books.** All invited to join a discussion, in Spanish, of *La Sombra de Lo que Fuimos*, Luis Sepulveda's novel about aging 60s radicals reunited in post-Pinochet Chile. 7:30 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662-0600.

★**Washtenaw Ski Touring Club.** Club member Alan Van Kerchove discusses "Geology of Michigan" (Dec. 1) and National Weather Service Detroit office meteorologist Richard Pollman discusses "Weather Interpretation" (Dec. 15). Preceded at 7 p.m. by socializing. 7:30 p.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 662-SKIS.

★**Jazz Band Concert: Huron High School.** Program TBA. 7:30 p.m., Huron High Meyers Auditorium, 2727 Fuller Rd. Free. 994-2040.

★**Opera Workshop: U-M School of Music.** Dec. 1 & 3 (different programs). Joshua Major directs U-M music students in scenes from operas by Puccini, Donizetti, and Cavalli. 7:30 p.m., McIntosh Theater, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764-0594.

★**"As You Like It": Greenhills School.** Dec. 1 & 2. Benjamin Cohen directs seniors in Shakespeare's pastoral comedy, a high-spirited exploration of the requirements of justice between lovers, brothers, friends, and rivals. 7:30 p.m., Greenhills School Campbell Center for the Performing Arts, 850 Greenhills Dr. (off Earhart). Free. 769-4010.

★**German Speakers' Round Table.** Every Tues. All German speakers invited for conversation. 8-10 p.m., Grizzly Peak Brewing Company, 120 W. Washington. Free admission. 453-2394.

★**Flute Ensembles: EMU Music Department.** Julie Stone and Amy Wagner direct the music student Flute Choir and small ensembles in a program TBA. 8 p.m., EMU Alexander Recital Hall, Lowell at E. Circle Dr., Ypsilanti. Free. 487-2255.

★**"Triple Double Trivia": The Arena.** Every Tues. All invited to try a wide-ranging trivia quiz for prizes. Bonus points awarded for "stupid human tricks" like drinking beer upside down. 10 p.m., the Arena, 203 E. Washington. Free. 222-9999.

2 WEDNESDAY

★**"Rockin' for the Hungry": Food Gatherers.** Dec. 2-6. Live broadcasts by Ann Arbor's 107one DJs. Nonperishable food donations requested. 7 a.m.-7 p.m. (Dec. 2-5) & 10 a.m.-5 p.m. (Dec. 6), Busch's, 2240 S. Main. Free admission. 761-2796.

★**Storytime: Waters Place Borders.** Every Wed.-Fri. except Dec. 24 & 25. Borders staff read from books for infants, babies, and toddlers. 10 a.m. (Wed. & Fri.) & 6:30 p.m. (Thurs.), Borders, 3140 Lohr Rd. Free. 997-8884.

★**"The Taste of Ann Arbor No-Mile Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** Dec. 2 & 16. Riders meet for lunch at different restaurants the 1st and 3rd Wed. through the winter. 11:30 a.m., location TBA. Free. Pay for your own lunch. 662-5052.

★**Chime Concert: Kerrytown Shops.** Every Wed., Fri., & Sat., except Dec. 25. All invited to play one of 100 songs, with melodies transcribed in numbers, on the 17-bell chime's numbered keys. Ambitious players can add chords. Local chimemaster Heather O'Neal demonstrates. Noon-12:30 p.m. (Wed. & Fri.) & 10:30-11 a.m. (Sat.), Kerrytown. Free. 369-3107.

★**ACBL Duplicate Bridge: Ann Arbor Senior Center.** Every Wed. & Thurs. except Dec. 24 & 31. All seniors age 50 & over invited to play ACBL-sanc-

folk-pop

Storyhill

Retro-nuevo

"The slower tunes that start *Storyhill* have a clarity that's quite retro," notes the *All Music Guide* in regard to *Storyhill*'s eponymously titled CD. May the day soon arrive when clarity is not considered retro! In the meantime, you can hear music that aims toward the limpid quality of classic folk-pop when *Storyhill* comes to the Ark on Tuesday, December 1, in a double bill with blues-pop veteran Cliff Eberhardt. *Storyhill* sometimes covers Simon & Garfunkel's "Cecilia," and their harmonies may well bring to mind that duo's infectious sound.

The *Storyhill* duo of Chris Cunningham and John Hermanson got started as childhood friends in Bozeman, Montana. Their harmonies have the combination of accuracy and freedom that comes from long experience; *Storyhill* released its first album in 1991 as Chris & Johnny, moved to the Twin Cities, toured and recorded until 1997, broke up, reunited, and kept at it. Folk music is great like that—if you have something distinctive to say and keep pursuing it to a deeper level, you can keep yourself going at a low-budget level for years. After performing for more than fifteen years, *Storyhill* won the Kerrville New Folk Competition in 2007.

The slow numbers make the most of the duo's harmony singing. In these, *Storyhill* favors earnest relationship songs that could indeed have come from 1960s folk, but what sets them apart is their sparseness and focus: the harmonies often grow in intensity as



the lyric deepens over the course of a song. The basic sound is one that has been heard wherever there are coffeehouses, but it's done here with a level of passion that takes it beyond nostalgia. "Give Up the Ghost," a rendition of one of those post-breakup conversations where the caring still shows through, matches the strong emotions involved with increasingly unusual moves in its high harmony line.

The duo also sings faster pieces with more contemporary landscapes in the lyrics; "Ballad of Joe Snowboard" is a unique take on the biography of a slacker, shifting from the criticism he hears echoing in his head to his death in an accident on a mountain. *Storyhill*'s economical sound is attractive even in romantic numbers that approach triteness; the duo forges four-to-the-beat rock settings with mostly acoustic instrumentation including drums and very light use of an acoustic or electric keyboard. Along with clarity, *Storyhill* can boast of another "retro" quality: simplicity.

—James M. Manheim

tioned duplicate bridge. Bring a partner. Noon–4 p.m. (Thurs.) & 12:45–4:15 p.m. (Wed.), Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. \$5. 769-5911.

★**Brown Bag Organ Series: U-M School of Music.** Organist James Kibbie and tenor Thom Spafford perform a program TBA. Bring a bag lunch. 12:15 p.m., U-M School of Public Health Community Room, 109 S. Observatory. Free. 764-0594.

★**Chess: U-M Turner Senior Resource Center.** Every Wed. through Dec. 23. All seniors invited to play chess. Refreshments. 1–4 p.m., Turner, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998-9353.

★**"Global Human Rights and Local Politics": U-M Center for International & Comparative Studies.** Talk by U-M sociology professor Kiyoo Tsutsui. 3–4:30 p.m., Michigan Union Kuenzel Room. Free. 764-2268.

★**"Why Aren't There Any War Cemeteries in North Korea?": U-M Center for Korean Studies.** Lecture by London School of Economics anthropology lecturer Heonik Kwon. 4 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764-1825.

★**"Beyond Cape Wind: The Challenge of Siting Renewable Energy Facilities": U-M Center for State, Local, & Urban Policy.** Talk by Providence Journal editorial page editor Robert Whitcomb, author of *Cape Wind: Celebrity, Energy, Class, Politics, and a Valiant Battle for Unobstructed Ocean Views on Nantucket Sound*. Followed by comments on the difficulties of siting wind turbine facilities in Michigan by Detroit Edison wind site development manager Matthew Wagner and U-M vice-president Sally Churchill. 4–5:30 p.m., 1110 Weill, 735 S. State at Hill. Free. 647-4091.

★**Scrabble: Ann Arbor Scrabblers.** Every Wed. All invited to play this popular word game. Bring a set, if you have one. 5–8 p.m., Arbor Brewing, 114 E. Washington. Free. 994-0084.

★**"Dead Duck!": Vault of Midnight.** Local graphic novelist Jay Fosgett discusses and/or reads from his new graphic novel about Dead Duck and his sidekick Zombie Chick who collect souls to take back to their boss J.P. Yorick, aka Death. Signing. 5 p.m., Vault of Midnight, 219 S. Main. Free. 327-8301.

★**"Top Ten Wine Tasting": Whole Foods Market.** Whole Foods staffers lead tastings of wines. Cheese and appetizers. 6:30 p.m., Paesano's Restaurant, 3411 Washtenaw Ave. \$30 in advance at Whole Foods Market (3135 Washtenaw Ave.). 975-4500.

★**Storytime: Arborland Borders.** Every Wed. & Fri., except Dec. 25. A Borders staffer reads stories and leads a craft project for toddlers. Raffle. 6:30 p.m. (Wed.) & 11 a.m. (Fri.), Borders, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 677-6948.

★**Children's Writers Group.** Dec. 2 & 16. All local children's writers invited to discuss their work. 7 p.m., Arborland Borders, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 677-9848.

★**Ann Arbor Bridge Club.** Every Wed. All invited to play ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge. If you plan to come without a partner, call in advance or arrive 20 minutes early. 7–11 p.m., Walden Hills clubhouse, 2114 Pauline at Maple. (Park on the north side of Pauline.) \$6 per person. 623-8050.

★**"East Coast Fish Dinner": Zingerman's Roadhouse.** Zingerman's Roadhouse chef Alex Young is joined by Peter and Laura (Foley) Ramsden, representatives of Zingerman's East Coast fish supplier Foley Fish Co. (New Bedford, MA), to host a dinner showcasing Foley fish. 7 p.m., Zingerman's Roadhouse, 2501 Jackson Rd. \$45. Beverages available a la carte. Space limited; reservations required. 663-FOOD.

★**"Electric Trolleys of Washtenaw County": Ann Arbor District Library.** Local train buffs Mark Hildebrandt and Martha Churchill discuss their new

book. Signing. 7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-4555.

★**U-M Men's Basketball vs. Boston College.** The U-M also has games this month against Arkansas-Pine Bluff (Dec. 5, 2 p.m.), Detroit (Dec. 13, noon), and Coppin State (Dec. 22, 7 p.m.). 7:30 p.m., Crisler Arena. \$15 & \$22. 764-0247.

★**Visitors Night: Ann Arbor Model Railroad Club.** All invited to check out the trains whizzing around on the club's big, elaborate layout, housed in a depot restored by the club. 7:30–10 p.m., Michigan Central depot, 3487 Broad, Dexter. Free. 426-5100.

★**History of Books & Printing Reading Group: Motte & Bailey, Booksellers.** All invited to join a discussion of *Dr. Johnson's Printer: The Life of William Strahan*, J.A. Cochrane's biography of Samuel Johnson's chief publisher. Refreshments. 7:30–9 p.m., Motte & Bailey, 212 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 669-0451.

★**"Curating the Archive: Representing Scattered Collections of the Colonial Past": U-M Museum of Art.** Talk by University of Cape Town art professor Pippa Skotnes. 7:30 p.m., UMMA Helmut Stern Auditorium, 525 S. State. Free. 764-0395.

★**Swell Season: Live Nation.** Acoustic pop-folk by the duo of Irish singer-songwriter Glen Hansard and Czech singer-pianist Marketa Irglova, who first came together as the stars of the film *Once*. 7:30 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets \$29.50–\$35 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office, Ticketmaster.com, & all other Ticketmaster outlets. To charge by phone, call (800) 745-3000.

★**"As You Like It": Greenhills School.** See 1 Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.

★**"Escanaba": Purple Rose Theatre Company.** Every Wed.–Sun. (except Nov. 26) Sept. 17–Dec. 20. Guy Sanville directs the world premiere of Jeff Daniels' comedy, the third in his deer-hunting Yoooper trilogy that includes the hugely successful *Escanaba in da Moonlight* and *Escanaba in Love*. This installment reveals the origins of some of the Soady family's time-honored deer camp traditions. Stars Julian Gant, Wayne David Parker, and Tom Whalen. 3 & 8 p.m., Purple Rose, 137 Park St., Chelsea. \$25 (Sun. evens., Wed. & Thurs.), \$33 (Sat. & Sun. matinees), & \$38 (Fri. & Sat. evens.) in advance and at the door. 433-7673.

★**"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase.** Every Wed. except Dec. 9. Performances by up to 12 aspiring area stand-up comics. Alcohol is served. 8 p.m., 314 E. Liberty (below Seva restaurant). \$5 in advance and at the door. 996-9080.

★**"Juke Box Jungle": Conor O'Neill's Irish Pub.** Every Wed. Conor O'Neill's staff member Brian Aherne hosts a music trivia quiz. Prizes. 9–11:30 p.m., Conor O'Neill's, 318 S. Main. \$3 team fee. 665-2968.

★**Wednesdays @ Michigan Union: Swing Ann Arbor.** Dec. 2, 9, & 16. Swing dancing to prerecorded music. No partner needed. Bring casual or nicer shoes that stay on your feet when you're active. Preceded by intermediate swing (7:30 p.m.) and beginning swing (8:30 p.m.) lessons. 9:30–11 p.m., Michigan Union Pendleton Room (occasionally Ballroom or U-Club). \$5 students, \$4 includes lessons. 945-8428.

3 THURSDAY

★**Thursday Lunch Bunch: Jewish Community Center.** Every Thurs. Activities, primarily for seniors, begin at 10 a.m. with "Energy Exercise" (\$4), a 60-minute exercise program led by Maria Farquhar. An 11 a.m. Current Events discussion group led by Heather Dombey is followed at noon by a homemade dairy lunch (\$3 with reservation, \$4 without reservation and for nonseniors) and at 1 p.m. by a cultural or educational program. Today: U-M Turner Geriatric Clinic social worker Mariko Foulk discusses "Depression and Mental Wellness in Seniors." Also this month: an open discussion of changes in American life after WW II (Dec. 10), a Q&A with Jewish Family Services geriatric social worker Allison Pollock (Dec. 17), a performance by local stand-up comic Paddy Ash (Dec. 24), and a performance video of comedian Jack Benny (Dec. 31). Note: The exercise and current events programs are not held on Dec. 17. 10 a.m.–3 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971-0990.

★**64th Annual Greens Market: Ann Arbor Branch of the Women's National Farm and Garden Association.** Also, a bake sale. Lunch available (noon–3 p.m.). Noon–6 p.m., Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free admission. 428-8445.

★**"Sitting Pretty: Portrait Photography and Gender in Meiji Japan": U-M Center for Japanese Studies Noon Lecture Series.** Lecture by Santa Clara University art history lecturer Karen Fraser. Noon, 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764-6307.

★**Gifts of Art: U-M Hospitals.** Dec. 3, 5, 10, 17, & 24. Performances by area and guest artists. Today: classical chamber music by a clarinet quintet from

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the U-M Life Sciences Orchestra. Also this month: a holiday variety show by **Friends of Nephrology** (Dec. 5, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.), a holiday **violin recital** by students of Wendy Azrak and Anna Bittar (Dec. 10), the local band **Counterpoint** (Dec. 17), and holiday jazz tunes by guitarist **Jake Reichbart** (Dec. 24). 12:10 p.m. (except as noted), U-M Hospital lobby, 1500 E. Medical Center Dr. (off Fuller). Free. 936-ARTS.

★**"When the Settlers Don't Go Home: Indigenous Rights and the Re-Founding of Settler Societies"**: U-M Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies. Lecture by U-M history fellow Miranda Johnson. 4-6 p.m., 1014 Tisch Hall, 435 S. State. Free. 615-7400.

★**"Media, Public Opinion, and Foreign Policy"**: U-M Ford School of Public Policy. Panel discussion with Harvard University government professor Matthew Baum, MIT political science professor Adam Berinsky, and U-M political science professor Phil Potter. 4-5:30 p.m., 1120 Weill, 735 S. State at Hill. Free. 647-3429.

★**"Thursday Night Rush Hour Relief"**: Cranbrook Whole Foods Market. Dec. 3, 10, & 17. Whole Foods staffers discuss wine. Also, tastings and small plates of food. Today: **"Red Wines of Australia"**. Also this month: **"Wines That Make Great Gifts"** (Dec. 10) and **"Sparkling Wines"** (Dec. 17). Also, a Michigan beer tasting (\$1 tastes, \$3 pints) at 5 p.m. with representatives from **Short's Brewing Company** (Dec. 4). 5-7 p.m., Whole Foods wine bar, 990 W. Eisenhower Pkwy., Cranbrook Village shopping center. \$17. 997-7500.

★**U-M School of Art & Design Penny Stamps Lecture Series**. Dec. 3 & 10. Today: innovator **Stewart Brand** on **"Hacking Civilization"**. Also this month: artist and social activist **Lucy Orta** on **"Body Architecture"** (Dec. 10). 5:10 p.m., Michigan Theater. Free. 647-2337.

★**U-M English Department Zell Visiting Writers Series**. See 1 Tuesday. Today: prose readings by award-winning writers **Tracy Daugherty** and **Marjorie Sandor**. Daugherty is a novelist, short story writer, and biographer whose most recent book, *Hiding Man: A Biography of Donald Barthelme*, is "deft rather than ponderous, allusive rather than probative, and surprising in [its] tenable explications of what [20th-century novelist and short story writer] Donald Barthelme wrote," says novelist Padgett Powell. Sandor is a short story writer and memoirist whose 2003 short story collection, *Portrait of My Mother, Who Posed Nude in Wartime*, is "tasty and luscious as just-plucked fruit," according to Booklist critic Donna Seaman. 5:15 p.m.

★**Board Game Night: Get Your Game On**. Every Thurs. & Sat. All invited to bring a favorite board game or play one of the store's. 6 p.m., *Get Your Game On*, 709 Packard. Free. 786-3746.

★**ACBL Bridge: Ann Arbor City Club**. Every Thurs. except Dec. 24 & 31. All invited to play ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge. No partner required. 7 p.m., Ann Arbor City Club, 1830 Washtenaw. \$5. 761-6691.

★**Ann Arbor Go Club**. Every Sun. & Thurs. except Dec. 24 & 31. Players of all skill levels invited to play what's regarded as the world's most difficult board game. No partner necessary. Boards and stones provided. 7 p.m.-midnight (Thurs.) & 1-6 p.m. (Sun.), Espresso Royale, 322 S. State. Free. 417-5547.

★**Euchre: Out Loud Chorus Fund-Raiser**. All invited to compete in a euchre tournament. 7 p.m., Shvau's Cabaret & Gallery, 325 Braun Ct. \$5. 663-0036.

★**"Natural Health and Raw Food"**: Living Yoga. Lecture-demo by local raw foods advocate Ellen Livingston. She also presents a lecture-demo (\$10 with preregistration required at 996-8111) at Arbor Farms, 2103 W. Stadium, on Dec. 17, 6:30-8 p.m., and hosts a raw food holiday potluck (kids welcome) on Dec. 30 (1-3 p.m., location TBA; call 995-0875). 7-8:30 p.m. Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room, 114 S. Main. Free. Preregistration required. 994-9174.

★**Annual Show-and-Tell: Huron Hills Lapidary & Mineral Society**. Bring red and green (or otherwise holiday-themed) minerals for a group show and tell. 7 p.m., West Side United Methodist Church, 900 S. Seventh St. Free. 655-5574.

★**"The Nines: Brinks, Cusps, and Perceptions of Possibility, 1789-2009"**: U-M Weiser Center for Emerging Democracies. Dec. 3 & 4. This 2-day conference begins tonight with a keynote lecture by Georgetown University School of Foreign Service history professor James Millward on **"China as a Eurasian Subcontinent: Perspectives on the Past and Future"**. The conference concludes on Dec. 4 (9 a.m.-5 p.m., Michigan League Henderson Room) with a series of talks about end-of-the-decade years that have contained world-transforming events. 7-8 p.m., Rackham Assembly Hall. Free. 764-0351.

★**Short Plays: U-M Basement Arts**. Dec. 3-5. Liam White, Yael Kiken, and Zach Smilovitz direct students in 3 of Smilovitz's one-act plays. One is about a young couple that drives their friends home after a

bad mushroom trip, another about two men in love with the same woman who fight for the opportunity to commit suicide by jumping from a specific ledge, and another about an elderly Jewish couple who discover the truth about each other when the man begins to suffer from the horror of "goy-i-fication." 7 p.m., U-M Walgreen Drama Center Studio One, 1226 Murfin, North Campus. Free. basement.studentorgs.umich.edu

★**"Annie"**: Encore Musical Theatre Company. Nov. 27-29 & Dec. 3-6, 10-13, & 17-19. Barbara Cullen directs Charles Strouse, Martin Charnin, and Thomas Meehan's upbeat, Tony Award-winning 1976 musical comedy inspired by the Little Orphan Annie comic strip. Set in Depression-era New York, the plot follows the adventures of the plucky Annie and her faithful sidekick pup Sandy as they escape an orphanage run by the despicable Mrs. Hannigan and eventually find a home with the millionaire Daddy Warbucks, rubbing elbows with FDR along the way. Songs include "Tomorrow," "We'd Like to Thank You, Herbert Hoover," "Hard-Knock Life," and "Easy Street." Cast: Bryana Dorfman, Diane Hill, Liz Griffith, John Sartor, Steve DeBruyne, and Liz Jaffe. 3 & 7 p.m., Encore, 3126 Broad St., Dexter. Tickets \$28 (members & seniors, \$25; groups of 10 or more, \$22) in advance at theencoretheatre.org and at the door. Tickets are \$10 extra for the Dec. 12 evening show, which is followed by a cabaret-style performance with wine and hors d'oeuvres. 268-6200.

★**Ann Arbor Ski Club**. Dec. 3 & 17. All age 21 & older invited to learn about the club's downhill and cross-country ski and snowboarding outings and other social activities. Followed by a casino night charity fund-raiser (Dec. 3) and a Christmas party and dance (Dec. 17, festive attire, bring an unwrapped child's gift for Toys for Tots). Refreshments. 7:30-11 p.m., Cobblestone Farm barn, 2781 Packard. \$5. 786-2237.

★**Israeli Dancing: Jewish Community Center**. Every Thurs. except Dec. 24 & 31. Dance instructor Cheryl Felt and DJ Amnon Steiner lead a variety of Israeli dancing to recorded music. Easy dances and oldies the first hour, followed by intermediate dances and requests. Beginners welcome. New dances taught each week. 7:30-10 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). \$5 (students, free). 971-0990.

★**Annual Winter Sing: Pioneer High School**. Kenneth Westerman leads all 11 of the school's vocal groups in an eclectic program of traditional and contemporary choral music, highlighted by the annual favorite "Wintertime Aglow." The program also includes Handel's "Sing with Pleasure," Mozart's "Requiem," and choral arrangements of Felix Bernard's "Winter Wonderland," Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah," The Rescues' "Crazy Ever After," Mates of State's "Like U Crazy," the African American spiritual "Ride the Chariot," and others. Accompanist is Andrew Anderson. 7:30 p.m., Pioneer High School Schreiber Auditorium, 601 W. Stadium at S. Main. Free. 994-2120.

★**Winter Choir Concert: Huron High School**. All of the Huron choirs perform works TBA. 7:30 p.m., Huron High Meyers Auditorium, 2727 Fuller Rd. Free. 994-2040.

★**Opera Workshop: U-M School of Music**. See 1 Tuesday. Today: scenes from operas by Puccini, Donizetti, and Cavalli (5 p.m.) and opera arias and Shakespeare monologues (7:30 p.m.). 5 & 7:30 p.m., McIntosh Theater, 1100 Baitz Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764-0594.

★**Motor City Metro Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society**. Every Thurs. except Dec. 24 & 31. All male singers invited to join the weekly rehearsals of this local barbershop harmony chorus. 8-10 p.m., ICC Education Center (behind Luther House at 1520 Hill). Free to visitors (\$130 annual dues for those who join). Park on Lincoln or Baldwin. 474-1155.

★**Jazz Ensemble & Jazz Lab Ensemble: U-M School of Music**. Ellen Rowe and Dennis Wilson direct these music student ensembles in a program TBA. 8 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Free. 764-0594.

★**Willerm Delisfort Project: Kerrytown Concert House**. Jazz quartet led by acclaimed NYC jazz pianist Delisfort. 8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. \$10-\$25 (students, \$5). Reservations recommended. 769-2999.

★**"Patience"**: U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society. Dec. 3-6. Diana Colleen Herstein and Aviana Eisenberg direct Gilbert & Sullivan's comic operetta inspired by the excesses of the Pre-Raphaelite movement that swept England in the 1870s. The plot concerns Reginald Bunthorne, an artsy fop who affects a love of poetry to wow the local belles. He succeeds in impressing all except the only woman he's interested in, a feet-on-the-ground milkmaid who remains loyal to the childhood sweetheart who woos her (and irritates Bunthorne) with his sincere, properly Victorian idyllic verses. *Patience* is known mainly for its extravagant comic energy and many memorable tunes,

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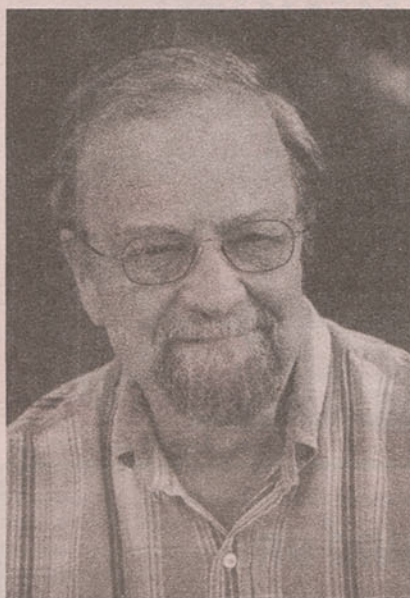
Place and elegy

Donald Hall, Poet Laureate of the United States in 2006-2007, and Ann Arborite Jane Kenyon, his second wife and an extraordinary poet in her own right, left Ann Arbor in 1975 to move to Hall's ancestral home in rural New Hampshire. Although Hall wrote "Kicking the Leaves," one of the best poems I know that is based at least partially in Ann Arbor, he does not, by and large, speak very fondly of this place nor of his time at the U-M, where he returns for a reading on Tuesday, December 1.

The place Hall does write about obsessively and often brilliantly is that farmhouse in New England, about the land around it and the people who have lived and worked there. His recent, massive book of selected poems, *White Apples and the Taste of Stone*, which picks from sixty years of work, circles round and about that farm. In one of the very early poems, Hall elegizes his ancestor: "Against the clapboards and the window panes / The loud March whines with rain and heavy wind, / In dark New Hampshire where his widow wakes." Four hundred pages and sixty years later, the poet, now in his eighties, hears the same wind: "In October the red leaves going brown heap and scatter / over hayfield and dirt road, over garden and circular drive."

The close observation of that place has created a unified vision that moves through all of Hall's long life, one that has been devoted to his art. He has tried lots of different forms, both in poetry and prose; he has adopted different voices, some purely narrative, others meditative, or for a short period almost surrealistic; but he has always come back to that house and his memories of it. That unity allows the reader to move through *White Apples and the Taste of Stone* from beginning to end, almost the way one would read a novel or memoir.

Donald Hall is quite possibly the premier American elegist. His memories of the



people gone before him are continually re-vivified by his life in the house those people built. When he and Kenyon returned to live there, their life together became part of the fabric of that place. And when Kenyon died at the age of forty-seven from leukemia, the place and Hall's keen knowledge of elegy combined to make powerful tributes that will almost certainly continue to be read and quoted. In a poem addressed to his dead wife that reflects on her garden and the view from the place they both loved, Hall writes,

*I paced beside the weeds
and snowy peonies, staring at Mount
Kearsarge
where you climbed wearing purple
hiking boots.
"Hurry back. Be careful, climbing
down."
Your peonies lean their vast heads
westward
as if they might topple. Some topple.
In the specifics of Hall's place and his
losses, we find emotions we all share.*
—Keith Taylor

including "The Soldiers of Our Queen" and "In a Doleful Train." 8 p.m., *Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre*, 911 North University. Tickets \$10-\$20 in advance at brownpapertickets.com/event/86076 or by calling (800) 838-3006, and at the door. 647-8436.

"Christmas Carol'd": Performance Network Professional Season. Every Thurs.-Sun. (except Dec. 25), Nov. 19-Dec. 27. David Wolber directs local playwright Joseph Zettelmaier's fast-paced, gleefully inventive adaptation of Dickens' classic Christmas tale in which 5 actors play more than 40 roles. Stars John Seibert. 8 p.m., *Performance Network*, 120 E. Huron. \$27 & \$29 (Thurs.), \$32 & \$34 (Fri. & Sun.), \$25 & \$27 (Sat. matinee), \$39 & \$41 (Sat. eve.). \$3 discount for seniors age 60 & over. Tickets available in advance at performancenetwork.org & by phone, and at the door. \$10 student discount in advance, half-price student tickets at the door only. \$40 tickets for families of 4 or less available for Dec. 5 & 19 matinees. reservations, call 663-0681; to charge by phone, call 663-0696.

"Escanaba": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 2 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

Dan Grueter: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. Dec. 3-5. Local debut of this fast-rising young Ohio-bred comic, a frequent guest on late night TV who's known for his wry, quick-witted, and very funny observational humor. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served; all Fri. & Sat. early shows are nonsmoking. 8 p.m., 314 E. Liberty (below Seva restaurant). \$7 (Thurs.) & \$10 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, \$9 (Thurs.) & \$12 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996-9080.

4 FRIDAY

***22nd Annual Hometown Holiday: Chelsea Area Chamber of Commerce.** Dec. 4-6. This popular community celebration features a variety of family

activities, including a chance for kids to visit Santa and do craft activities in his workshop, and gingerbread house displays in downtown shop windows. Highlights include a **Chelsea High School Chamber Choir "Hometown Holiday Concert"** (Dec. 4, 7 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 128 Park), the **All the Trimmings Holiday Art Show** (Dec. 5, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Chelsea Fairgrounds), a **Holiday Parade** (Dec. 5, 6 p.m., Main St.), and a **Hometown Holiday Concert** (3 & 7 p.m., Chelsea Depot) by the Chelsea Chamber Players. For a complete schedule of events, see chelseafestivals.com. 9 a.m.-10 p.m. (Dec. 4 & 5) & noon-7 p.m. (Dec. 6), downtown Chelsea. Free. 475-1145.

***"Stravinsky and the Dance": U-M Dance Department.** A panel of scholars TBA discuss Stravinsky's contribution to 20th- and 21st-century dance. 10 a.m., U-M Dance Bldg. Betty Pease Studio, 1310 North University Ct. Free. 763-5460.

***1st Friday Brown Bag Concert Series: Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts.** AASPA wind, string, and piano faculty perform works in a variety of genres. Bring a bag lunch. Noon, Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts, 637 S. Main. Free. 213-2000.

***Movie Matinee: Ann Arbor Senior Center.** Every Fri. except Dec. 25. Screening of a film TBA. Lunch available (\$2.50), 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. 12:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769-5911.

"Book-a-Palooza": Common Language Bookstore. Dec. 4-6. A big sale of used books. 1 p.m.-midnight (Dec. 4), 10 a.m.-8 p.m. (Dec. 5), & 1-7 p.m. (Dec. 6), Shvau! Cabaret & Gallery, 325 Braun Ct. Free admission. 663-0036.

***Bridge: U-M Turner Senior Resource Center.** Every Mon. & Fri. through Dec. 21. All seniors in-

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vited to play bridge. Refreshments. 1-4 p.m., Turner, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998-9353.

★**ESL Conversation Group:** Ann Arbor District Library. Every Mon. & Fri. through Dec. 21. All levels of English speakers invited for conversation. 1-2:30 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch (Fri.), 3090 E. Eisenhower between Stone School & Packard, and AADL Pittsfield Branch (Mon.), 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. & Ann Arbor Saline Rd. Free. 327-4200.

★**U-M Geological Sciences Smith Lecture Series.** Dec. 4 & 11. Talks by visiting scholars on "Bent Mountain Belts: A Paleogeographic, Plate Tectonic, and Paleomagnetic Dilemma" (Dec. 4) and "How Elements Behave Inside Planets" (Dec. 11). Reception follows. 4 p.m., 1528 C.C. Little, 1100 North University. Free. 764-1435.

★**"Friction on the Edge of Contemporary Bombay Cinema":** U-M Center for South Asian Studies. Lecture by New Delhi independent filmmaker Ranjani Mazumdar. 4 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764-0448.

★**Father Uwem Akpan:** U-M Institute for the Humanities. This U-M creative writing grad, a Nigerian-born Jesuit priest who is currently teaching in Zimbabwe, discusses *Say You're One of Them*, his widely heralded 2008 collection of piercing, luminous stories, narrated by children, about the violent, impoverished lives of contemporary Africans living in Nigeria, Benin, and Ethiopia. It is a 2009 Oprah Book Club selection. 4-5:30 p.m., 100 Hatcher, 920 North University. Free. 936-3518.

★**"Affective Communities: The Contradictions of National and Soviet Identity in the USSR":** U-M College of Literature, Science, & the Arts. Lecture by U-M social and political history professor Ronald Suny. 4:10 p.m., Rackham Amphitheater (4th floor). Free. 998-6251.

Ann Arbor Clay Tour. Dec. 4-6. Tours, sales, pottery demos, and exhibits at several local pottery studios. Maps available at annarborclaytour.com. Tonight: an opening reception at Yourist Studio Gallery. 5-9 p.m. (Dec. 4), Yourist Studio Gallery, 1133 Broadway, and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. (Dec. 5 & 6), various locations. Free admission. 662-4914.

★**"Moonlight Madness Craft Show":** Saline Community Education. Also, a cookie walk, a gingerbread house display, and a holiday tea (cost TBA; reservations required). No strollers; child care available until 8 p.m. 5-11 p.m., Saline Middle School, 7190 N. Maple, Saline. \$2 (children age 10 & under, free). 429-5922.

★**"Bead Making":** Barnes & Noble. Oak Trails Montessori School teachers help kids (accompanied by an adult) make a bead bracelet to take home. 6 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973-1618.

★**"1st Annual KindleFest":** Kerrytown District Association. A holiday sale featuring local artisans and farmers, live music TBA, and fire pits to roast s'mores. Beer and mulled wine available. 6-10 p.m., Farmers' Market, Kerrytown. Free admission. 662-5008.

Dances of Universal Peace (Sufi Dancing). All invited to join in song, chant, and circle dances in joyous affirmation of the unity of the world's spiritual traditions. 7-9 p.m., Friends Meetinghouse, 1420 Hill. \$5 requested donation. 332-7964.

★**"Midnight Madness":** Main Street Area Association/Kerrytown Shops. Many merchants are open late tonight with special sales. Also, a silver jewelry-making demo (6-10 p.m., Heavenly Metal, 207 E. Ann St.) and sidewalk performers on Main St. (7-9 p.m.), including appearances by Santa and Miss Washtenaw County, songs by Elvis tribute artist Chris Solano, and swordplay stunts by Ring of Steel. Also, Santa's Mailbox is accepting letters (postage to North Pole courtesy of the MSAA) Nov. 27-Dec. 17 at 117 E. Liberty (in front of Organic Bliss Boutique). 6 p.m.-midnight, Kerrytown Shops and Main Street shopping areas. Free admission. 668-7112, 662-5008.

★**Mark Webster Reading Series:** U-M English Department. Readings by U-M creative writing grad students, including poet Amy Berkowitz and fiction writer Brad Wetherell. 7 p.m., U-M Museum of Art Helmut Stern Auditorium, 525 S. State. Free. 615-3710.

★**Student Songwriter Showcase:** The Ark. In-the-round performances by U-M student singer-songwriters. 7 p.m., U-M Museum of Art, 525 S. State. Free. 761-1451.

★**"The Nutcracker":** Youth Dance Theater of Michigan. Dec. 4-6. Wendi DuBois directs this Chelsea-based troupe of young dancers in a production of Tchaikovsky's ballet. The matinees are preceded at 12:30 p.m. by a Sugar Plum Fairy Tea (\$10 in advance only) featuring cast visits and photos, and refreshments. 7 p.m., Chelsea High School, 740 N. Freer, Chelsea. \$18 (students and age 60 & over, \$12) in advance and at the door. Groups of 10 or more, \$10 each in advance only. 475-3070.

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"Cinderella": EMU Dance Program. EMU dance students perform Prokofiev's classical ballet. The score is performed live by the **EMU Symphony Orchestra**. An abridged version of this program is presented earlier today at 10 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. in 2 free 50-minute children's concerts (reservations required at 487-2448). 7 p.m., Pease Auditorium, W. Cross at College Place, EMU campus, Ypsilanti. Tickets \$10 (seniors & students, \$8; children under 12, \$6) in advance and at the door. 487-2282.

"The Best Christmas Pageant Ever": Saline Area Players. Dec. 4-6. Kara Cardella directs local actors in Barbara Robinson's comedy about a family of hooligans who take over the Sunday school Christmas pageant. As the miscreants lie, steal, and smoke cigars, the pageant seems to face certain ruin—or does it? 7 p.m., old Calico Cat Bldg., 117 S. Ann Arbor St., Saline. Tickets \$5 (families, \$20) in advance at salineareaplayers.com. 944-4940.

"The Prince, the Wolf, and the Firebird": EMU Theater Department. Dec. 4-6 & 10-12. EMU theater professor Pam Cardell directs EMU students in Jackson Lacey's adaptation of the Russian folktale about a young prince whose determination to keep his promise to the beautiful Firebird leads him on a quest full of danger and colorful characters. A family-oriented production for theatergoers age 8 & up. 7 p.m., Quirk Theater, Ford St. (off Lowell from Huron River Dr.), EMU campus, Ypsilanti. Tickets \$15 (students, \$12; kids age 12 & under, \$6) in advance and at the door. 487-2282.

★Short Plays: U-M Basement Arts. See 3 Thursday. 7 & 11 p.m.

Frank Warren: Ann Arbor Conversations. Warren is the creator of PostSecret, a communal art project in which people anonymously create postcards containing previously undisclosed secrets about themselves and mail them to PostSecret. Tonight he reads from and discusses some of these postcards and tells stories about people whose lives have been changed by sharing a secret. 7:30 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets \$15-\$35 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office, Ticketmaster.com, & all other Ticketmaster outlets. To charge by phone, call (800) 745-3000.

★Holiday Concert: American Guild of Organists. Organists TBA perform a holiday program. 7:30 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. 615-3595.

★Advanced Study Group: Rudolf Steiner Study Circle of Ann Arbor. Dec. 4 & 18. All invited to join an ongoing discussion of Rudolf Steiner's *Sleep and Dreams*. Familiarity with Steiner's basic ideas required. 8-9:30 p.m., 3247 N. Wagner (Dec. 4) & 1923 Geddes (Dec. 18). Free. 944-4903.

Singles Dance: Parents Without Partners. Dec. 4 & 18. All singles invited for an evening of dancing and socializing. All encouraged to wear "Crazy Ts & Jeans" (and to bring an unwrapped new toy to donate to Toys for Tots) for the Dec. 4 casual dance, and something red or green for the Dec. 18 "Holly Days" dance. Recorded 70s-to-contemporary dance music played by DJ Mike Jackson. Cash bar. 8 p.m.-midnight, Grotto Club, 2070 W. Stadium. \$8 (PWP members, \$6). 433-1668.

★Angell Hall Observatory Open House: U-M Student Astronomical Society. All invited to peer through the telescopes in the observatory and on the Angell Hall roof and to view shows in the planetarium. Also, short astronomy presentations by club members. 8-10 p.m., 5th floor rooftop observatory, Angell Hall (from the large State St. entrance, take one of the elevators on the left). Free. 764-3440.

★"Global Contemporaries": U-M Contemporary Directions Ensemble. Christopher James Lees directs this adventurous music student ensemble in works by Jon Deak, Joseph Schwantner, and Kristin Kuster. 8 p.m., U-M Walgreen Drama Center Stamps Auditorium, 1226 Murfin, North Campus. 764-0594.

Winter Concert: U-M Harmonettes. This peppy all-female student cappella group performs original arrangements of oldies and pop numbers. Also, a performance by the MSU a cappella ensemble the Acafellas. 8 p.m., Michigan League Ballroom. Tickets TBA. harmonettes@umich.edu.

"...or G?": U-M G-Men. This all-male student cappella ensemble sings songs by Michael Jackson, Tally Hall, Ace of Base, Maroon 5, Ryan Shaw, and more. 8 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. \$10 (students, \$5) in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office or thegmen.org, and at the door. 763-TKTS.

Don White: Green Wood Coffee House Series (First United Methodist Church). This veteran singer-songwriter from Lynn, MA, writes sharp-witted songs about everyday life that blend pathos, humor, and biting satire, and his live shows feature a lot of impromptu storytelling and comedy. His fans include Christine Lavin and Livingston Taylor, and he's released 4 acclaimed CDs, including the recent *Live in Michigan*. A big hit in earlier Green Wood appearances. 8 p.m., FUMC Green Wood Church,

1001 Green Rd. at Glazier Way. \$17 (kids age 10 & under, 2 for the price of 1) in advance and at the door. 665-8558.

"If Only in My Dreams": Blackbird Theatre. Nov. 27-29 and Dec. 4-6 and 11-13 (different locations). Blackbird artistic director Barton Bund and long-time Blackbird actor William Myers present a series of holiday-themed monologues in the voices of Jack Kerouac, Dylan Thomas, Truman Capote, and Canadian novelist Roch Carrier. 8 p.m., Blackbird Theatre (Nov. 27-29 & Dec. 4-6), 1600 Pauline (at Kay Pkwy. east of Stadium) & Shvau Cabaret & Gallery (Dec. 11-13), 325 Braun Ct. \$20 (seniors, \$15; students, \$10) in advance at blackbirdtheatre.org and at the door. 332-3848.

"Impossible Marriage": Ann Arbor Civic Theatre. Dec. 4-6, 11, & 12. Sam Zwetchkenbaum and Jean Leverich direct local actors in Beth Henley's offbeat comedy about a slightly skewed Southern family aghast that its youngest daughter is blithely marrying a writer twice her age. Her older sister, whose pregnancy creates an odd craving for elaborate wedding cake icing, and her mother, who's sure that fairies live under toadstools, maneuver to uphold what dignity the quirky family has. 8 p.m., A2CT Studio, 322 W. Ann St. Tickets \$10 & \$15 in advance and (if available) at the door. 971-2228.

"Patience": U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society. See 3 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Annie": Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 3 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Escanaba": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 2 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

"Christmas Carol'd": Performance Network Professional Season. See 3 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Dan Grueter: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 3 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

"Swing Dance Party": Ann Arbor Swing Dance Association. Dec. 4, 11, & 18. Lindy hop, East Coast swing, Charleston, blues, and Balboa dancing to prerecorded music. No partner needed. Bring hard-sole shoes. Preceded at 8 p.m. by beginning lessons. 8:45-11:45 p.m., Dakota Bldg., 1785 W. Stadium. \$5 (includes lessons; students, \$3). 417-9857.

5 SATURDAY

★"Home for the Holidays": Dexter Area Chamber of Commerce. Activities begin with breakfast with Santa (8:30-10:30 a.m.). Santa is also at the downtown gazebo (11 a.m.-4 p.m.), and his double hosts lunch at the Original Alpha Coney Island (11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.) in Dexter Crossing. Events conclude at 6 p.m. with the lighting of the Christmas tree in Monument Park, followed by carol singing by choirs from Peace Lutheran and Dexter United Methodist churches. For a complete schedule, see dexterchamber.org. 8:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m., downtown and other locations, Dexter. Free admission. 426-0887.

★Annual Holiday Bazaar and Children's Faire: Rudolf Steiner School. 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Rudolf Steiner School, 2775 Newport Rd. Free admission. 995-4141.

Holiday Art and Craft Festival: Ann Arbor City Club. 9 a.m.-4 p.m., City Club, 1830 Washtenaw. \$3 admission. 662-3279.

★"Washtenaw County Gulls": Washtenaw Audubon Society. WAS member Rob French leads a trip (in the WAS van) to the Arbor Hills Landfill in Salem Township to look for unusual species of gulls. 9 a.m., meet at Huron High School parking lot, 2727 Fuller Rd. at Huron Pkwy. Free. Space limited; preregistration required by email to fieldtrips@washtenawaudubon.org.

★"Dinosaur Discovery Day": U-M Exhibit Museum Discovery Day. This family-oriented dinosaur program includes a fossil dig, a dinosaur puppet show, a dinosaur craft, screening of dinosaur films, and other family-oriented demonstrations and activities. Prize drawing. Refreshments. 9 a.m.-5 p.m., U-M Exhibit Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. Free. 764-0478.

★"The Magna Carta Manifesto: Liberties and Commons for All": Gray Panthers of Huron Valley. University of Toledo history professor Peter Linebaugh's study of the origins of the Great Charter and its little-known companion the Charter of the Forest, which protected the subsistence rights of the poor. Discussion follows. Refreshments. The program begins with coffee & socializing. 9:45 a.m.-noon, U-M Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 973-5593.

"Christmas on the Farm and at Dewey School": Waterloo Area Farm Museum. This German immigrant family's pioneer homestead comes alive with the sights, sounds, and smells of a rural 1880s Michigan Christmas. Docent-guided tours of the 2-story brick farmhouse. Free hot cider in the farm's spartan log cabin, and tours of the one-room Dewey School. Refreshments. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (Dec. 5) &

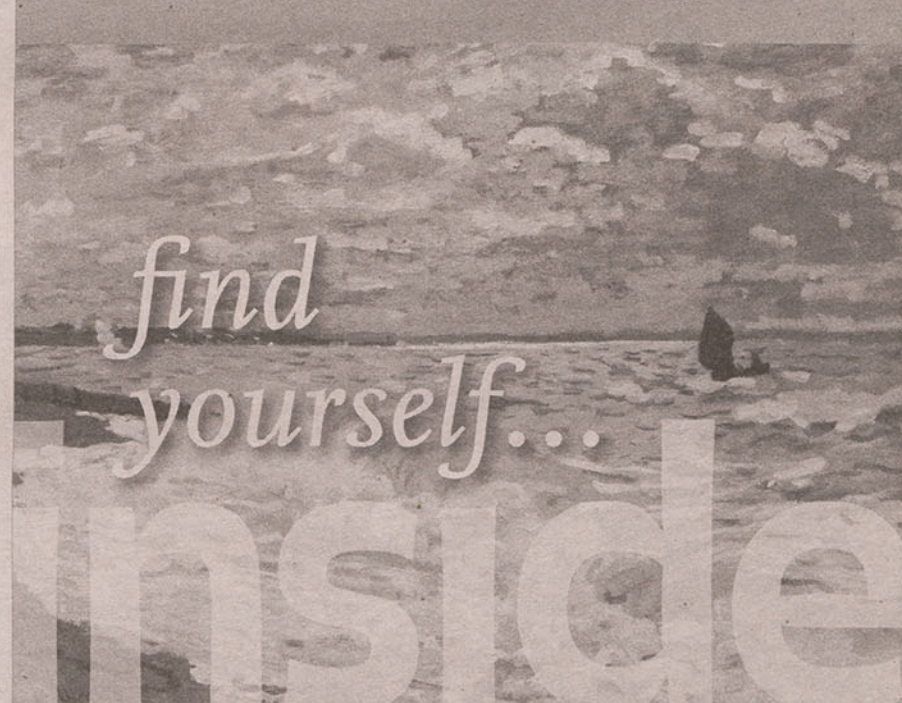


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Organized by UMMA, this exhibition is made possible in part by the Florence Gould Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the University of Michigan Health System and Office of the Provost. The project would not have been possible without the generosity and cooperation of the Bibliothèque nationale de France (BnF) and features exceptional loans from the BnF and the Musée d'Orsay.

Gustave Le Gray, *The Beach at Sainte-Adresse, View of the Cliffs (Plage de Sainte-Adresse, vue de la falaise)*, 1856, albumen print, Musée des civilisations de l'Europe et de la Méditerranée, Paris, on deposit to the Musée des Beaux-Arts, Troyes; Claude Monet, *The Sea at Le Havre*, 1868, oil on canvas, Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (Purchase 53.22)

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OPEN HOUSE

December 6, 12-6pm

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- 5% off memberships (Dec 6th only)
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Cinderella

2009

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December 6, 2009 @ 3 PM

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Auditorium

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noon-4 p.m. (Dec. 6), Waterloo Area Farm Museum, 9998 Waterloo Rd. (left off Clear Lake Rd. from I-94 exit 153), Chelsea. \$4 admission (seniors \$3; children ages 5-17, \$2; ages 4 & younger, free). (517) 596-2254.

"Super Science Shows": Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum. Dec. 5, 6, 12, 13, 26, & 27. Museum staff give family-friendly science demos. The Dec. 5 & 6 events are a "Sciencepalooza" on "Stories and Books." 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (Dec. 5), noon-4 p.m. (Dec. 6), and 1 & 3 p.m. (all other dates), Hands-On Museum, 220 E. Ann. \$9 regular admission (members & infants, free). 995-5439.

★Christmas Party: Downtown Home & Garden. Santa is on hand to talk to kids, give them a Christmas orange, and take their Christmas lists. Free roasted chestnuts, eggnog, cider, and while they last, smidgens of delicious smoked goose right from the store's Big Green Egg smoker. 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Downtown Home & Garden, 210 S. Ashley. Free. 662-8122.

"Himalayan Bazaar in My Garage": Of Global Interest. Dec. 5, 12, & 19. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 120 Eighth St. Free admission. 369-3107.

Holiday Sale: Ann Arbor Potters Guild. Dec. 5 & 6. Outdoor sale under heated tents. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Potters Guild, 201 Hill. Free admission. 663-4970.

★"Hunters of the Sky": Wild Birds Unlimited. Presentation with live birds of prey by a Leslie Science and Nature Center representative. 10 a.m., Wild Birds Unlimited, 2208 S. Main. Free. 665-7427.

★Remote-Controlled Car Racing: Washtenaw RC Raceway. Off-road dirt-track racing for stock and modified model electric trucks and buggies. Spectators welcome. Concessions. 10:30 a.m. (doors open at 8 a.m.)-midnight, Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. Free admission. \$16 to race. (313) 565-2815.

"Renewable Energy": Sustainable Michigan. Dec. 5 & 19. Today: Burns Park Green Energy Foundation founder Nate Ayers discusses "Photovoltaics & Current Government Incentives." Also this month: SUR Energy owner John Wakeman on "Solar Domestic Hot Water: A Good Investment" (Dec. 19). 10:30 a.m.-noon, Recycle Ann Arbor EnHouse, 2420 South Industrial. \$10 (students, \$5) suggested donation. 644-1520.

★Storytime: Nicola's Books. Every Sat. Storytelling program for kids age 7 & under. 11 a.m., Nicola's, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662-0600.

★Holiday Storytime: Borders. Dec. 5 & 12. Borders staffers read stories for kids. Today: **Grinchfest**, with Dr. Seuss stories and a holiday craft. Dec. 12: **Beckett the Bear**. Bring a stuffed animal for show-and-tell. 11 a.m., Downtown Borders (612 E. Liberty), Waters Place Borders (3140 Lohr Rd.), and Arborland Borders (3527 Washtenaw). Free. 668-7652 (Downtown), 997-8884 (Waters Place), 677-6948 (Arborland).

"Gingerbread House: 101": Washtenaw & Cranbrook Whole Foods Markets. Dec. 5 & 12. Demo by a Whole Foods staffer. Followed by a chance to make your own gingerbread house. 11 a.m., Whole Foods Cooking & Lifestyles Classroom (3135 Washtenaw Ave.) & 2 p.m., Cranbrook Whole Foods Market, 990 W. Eisenhower Pkwy., Cranbrook Village. \$19.99 gingerbread house kit fee. Preregistration required. 975-4500 (Washtenaw) & 997-7500 (Cranbrook).

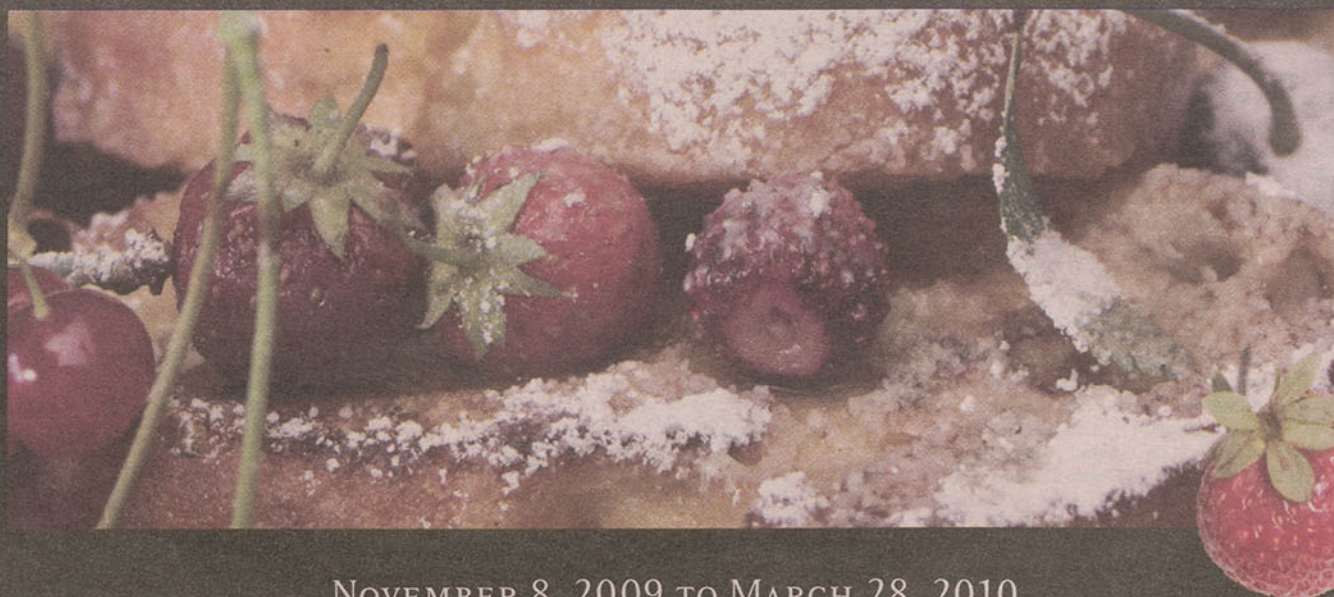
★Children's Storytime: Barnes & Noble. Every Sat. Storytelling programs and craft activities for kids. 11 a.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973-1618.

"Gingerbread Houses": Morgan & York. All kids invited to decorate a gingerbread house (made with graham crackers) to take home. Proceeds benefit the Educational Project for Homeless Youth. 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Morgan & York, 1928 Packard. \$10 suggested donation. Reservations requested. 662-0798.

Today's Brass Quintet: Kerrytown Concert House Croissant Concert. A popular holiday tradition featuring holiday music by this area professional ensemble. Members are French hornist Alan Taplin, trombonist Brian Robson, tubaist Joseph DeMarsh, and trumpeters Jean Moorehead Libs and David Ammer. Croissants, coffee, & juice. 11 a.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. \$10, \$15, & \$25. Reservations recommended. 769-2999.

U-M Exhibit Museum Planetarium. Every Sat. (except Dec. 26) & Sun. Three different audiovisual planetarium shows. **The Sky Tonight** (11:30 a.m. Sat. only and 1:30 & 3:30 p.m. both days) explores the current night sky. **Stars of the Pharaohs** (2:30 p.m. Sat. only) explores the use of science in ancient Egypt to tell time, make a workable calendar, and align huge buildings. **Two Small Pieces of Glass: The Amazing Telescope** (12:30 p.m. Sat & 2:30 p.m. Sun.) explores how telescopes work and what they can do. 11:30 a.m. and 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, & 3:30 p.m., U-M Exhibit Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. \$4.75. 764-0478.

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Hands-On Museum staff Dec. 5 & 6. Stories and p.m. (Dec. 5-6) Members & Garden.

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Dec. 5 & 6-5 p.m., 63-4970.

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Draw Doubles: Local 101 Disc Golf Club. Every Sat. All invited to play disc golf at one of Hudson Mills Metropark's 24-hole courses. Beginners are paired with advanced players to create parity. Prizes. Golf discs available free. Noon, Hudson Mills Metropark Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. \$5 per player; free for spectators. \$4 vehicle entrance fee. 449-4300.

★Classical Bells: Ann Arbor District Library. Darlene Ebersole directs this acclaimed Detroit-area handbell ensemble whose varied repertoire includes classical, inspirational, seasonal, popular, and even ragtime and swing tunes. 1-2 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-4560.

★"Village Marketplace of Bethlehem": Dixboro United Methodist Church. A live Nativity and a recreation of a Bethlehem marketplace as it would have existed in Jesus' time, with a potter's shop, a leather shop, and other stations where participants can make food and try various activities. 1-4 p.m., Dixboro UMC, 5221 Church St. Free. 665-5632.

★German Family Christmas: Kempf House Center for Local History. Dec. 5, 6, 12, & 13. This restored 19th-century Greek Revival home is decked out with a traditional tree and decorations and exhibits reflecting a typical early 20th-century German American celebration of Christmas. Christmas cookies. 1-4 p.m., Kempf House, 312 S. Division. Free; donations welcome. 994-4898.

★"The New UMMA": U-M Museum of Art. Every Sat. & Sun., except Dec. 26. Docent-led tours of the recently renovated museum. 1 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State. Free. 764-0395.

"The Best Christmas Pageant Ever": Saline Area Players. See 4 Friday. 1 & 3:30 p.m.

★"Seascapes: Exploring the Horizons": U-M Museum of Art. All invited to paint a seascape inspired by works in the current UMMA exhibit, *The Lens of Impressionism: Photography and Painting along the Normandy Coast, 1850-1874*. Materials provided. 1:30-4:30 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State. Free. 764-0395.

★Warhammer/Warmachine Open Play: Get Your Game On. Every Sat. All invited to play these 2 tactical miniatures board games. Also, a **Warhammer 40 Escalation League** series of tournaments begins Dec. 6 (call or email GetYurGameOnline@gmail.com to register). 2 p.m., Get Your Game On, 709 Packard. Free. 786-3746.

★Ann Arbor Juggling Arts Club. Every Sat. All invited to practice their juggling skills. Beginners welcome. Indoor location TBA in case of inclement weather. 2-4 p.m., U-M Diag. Free. 761-1115.

★Go Like the Wind Montessori School: Barnes & Noble. John Churchville directs GLTW students in a musical performance. 2 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973-1618.

★Pittsfield Open Band: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. Dec. 5 & 19. All musicians invited for a contra music open jam. Bring Judi Morningstar's *The Ruffwater Fakebook* if you have it. 3-6 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. (just south of Oak Valley Dr.). Free. 994-9307.

★Kids Open Stage: Oz's Music Environment. Kids of all ages and musical abilities are invited to play, sing, or just observe. Preceded at 3 p.m. by a **kids drum circle** (\$10) hosted by Oz's owner Steve Osburn. Drums provided. 4-5 p.m., Oz's, 1920 Packard. Free; donations welcome. 662-8283.

★In Good Company African American Book Club: Nicola's Books. All invited to join a discussion of Sapphire's 1997 novel *Push*. The basis for the critically acclaimed film *Precious*, it's written from the point of view of an illiterate HIV-positive teenager who's been abused by her parents. 4 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662-0600.

★"Saline Holiday Parade": Saline Area Chamber of Commerce. After the parade, the **Saline Fiddlers** perform (7 p.m., Union School, 200 Ann Arbor St.) and Santa greets children at the old Calico Cat building (117 S. Ann Arbor St.). 5:30 p.m., downtown Saline. Free. 429-4494.

Annual Ypsilanti Holiday Homes Tour: Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels Fund-Raiser. Dec. 5 & 6. Tour of 6 historic Ypsilanti homes. The Dec. 5 "candlelight" tour includes hors d'oeuvres and is followed at 8:30-10 p.m. by a reception. 6-8:30 p.m. (Dec. 5) & noon-4:30 p.m. (Dec. 6), various locations. Tickets \$40 (Dec. 5) & \$15 (Dec. 6); \$20 on the day of the tour in advance in Ypsilanti at Nelson Amos Studio, Haab's Restaurant, Sidetrack Bar & Grill, and Cafe Luwak. 660-3639.

"Family Latke Hop": Jewish Community Center. Dinner, with dancing to live music, kids games and craft activities, and a community candle-lighting ceremony. 6-9 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Admission: \$14

(kids, \$6) for nonmembers, \$12 (kids, \$5) for members. Reservations requested. 971-0990.

★"Kopi and Friends Charity Concert": U-M Kapi-tonex. Performances by this student a cappella ensemble and other U-M Asian culture student groups, including the Taiwanese American Student Association's **Revolution Yo-Yo Team**, the traditional Korean drumming group **Sinaboro**, and others. Proceeds benefit the Asia Foundation "Books for Asia" fund. 6 p.m., Angell Hall Auditorium B. \$4 suggested donation. (347) 248-6036.

★"A Gospel Christmas Celebration": One Voice Gospel Choir. Preceded at 5 p.m. by dessert and craft activities. 7 p.m., St. Paul United Church of Christ, 122 W. Michigan, Saline. Free; donations accepted. 439-8562.

★"Truth or Dare": U-M Good News. This coed Christian a cappella ensemble is joined by a guest performer TBA in contemporary Christian pop songs, hymns, and spirituals. The program includes Casting Crowns' "Voice of Truth," Switchfoot's "Dare You to Move," Hillsong's "Desert Song," and more. 7 p.m., U-M MLB Auditorium 3, 812 E. Washington. Free. (248) 496-0552.

★"13th Annual Evening of Sacred Song: A Seasonal Celebration of Peace, Community, and Spirit": Sacred Song. This ad hoc local vocal ensemble presents an evening of songs from numerous spiritual traditions worldwide. The concert features works performed with and without instrumental accompaniment. Also, sing-alongs: Sacred Song members Yarrow Halstead, Laura Machida, Cassandra Montgomery, Dale Petty, Robin Wilson, Mary Wilson, LaRon Williams, Faye Askew-King, MaryAnne Perrone, Barbara Stahler-Sholk, Gae Winn, Max and Sam Deschamps, and Edie Lewis are joined by guest singers Dana Piper and Julia Bayha. Reception follows. Proceeds benefit the Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigration Rights. 7 p.m., Genesis of Ann Arbor, 2309 Packard. \$15 in advance, \$20 (or what you can afford to pay) at the door. Kids under age 12, free. 761-7962.

★"Cinderella": Ypsilanti Area Dancers. Dec. 5 & 6. Heidi Vitso directs a company of 62 dancers ages 6-24 in a production of Prokofiev's ballet based on the classic fairy tale. 2 & 7 p.m., Ypsilanti High School Auditorium, 2095 Packard, Ypsilanti. Tickets \$15 & \$20 in advance at ypsilantiareadancers.com and at the door. 528-9682.

★"The Nutcracker": Youth Dance Theater of Michigan. See 4 Friday. 2 & 7 p.m.

★"The Prince, the Wolf, and the Firebird": EMU Theater Department. See 4 Friday. 3 & 7 p.m.

Short Plays: U-M Basement Arts. See 3 Thursday. 7 p.m.

★"Drum 4 Wellness Circle: Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth Cafe 704 Coffeehouse. All invited to join a drum circle. Bring a drum or use one provided. 7:30-9 p.m., Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, 704 Airport Blvd. \$5 suggested donation. 480-1219.

Winter Concert: U-M Compulsive Lyres. Performance by this coed a cappella ensemble. 7:30 p.m., East Hall Auditorium, 530 Church. \$8 (students, \$5) at the door only. compulsivelylyres.com

32nd Annual Boar's Head Festival: Concordia University. Dec. 5 & 6. Elegantly elaborate medieval English pageant celebrating Christ's victory over sin and death with a blend of religious pageantry and secular pomp. It features a cast of more than 100 Concordia students, faculty, and staff as Beefeaters, hunters, jesters, and other court characters, as well as traditional Christmas shepherds and magi. With musical narration, congregational singing, and a full orchestra. This hugely popular event sells out in advance every year. 7:30 p.m., Concordia University Chapel of the Holy Trinity, 4090 Geddes at Earhart. Tickets \$8-\$15 in advance at the Krefl Center Box Office and (if available) at the door. 995-4612.

★"A Christmas Carol": Family Theater Project. Dec. 5 & 6. Rebecca Groeb-Driskill directs local actors in an adaptation of Dickens' familiar tale of Ebenezer Scrooge's tortuous journey from bilious tightwad to gracious benefactor. With some musical numbers. Proceeds benefit performing arts scholarships for Saline students. 3 & 7:30 p.m., Liberty School Auditorium, 7265 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd., Saline. Tickets \$5 at the door only. 429-8000, ext. 2338.

1st Saturday Contra: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. Bob Stein calls contra to live music by Lansing band Oh Contraire. All dances taught; no partner needed. 8 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. (just south of Oak Valley Dr.). \$9 (members, \$8; students, \$5). 769-1052.

★"Sounds of Architecture": U-M Museum of Art/U-M School of Music. Andrew Kuster directs the music faculty ensemble **Michigan Chamber Players**, the music student **Contemporary Directions Ensemble**, U-M music students, and local guitarist **Matthew Ardizzone** in works by U-M music profes-

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sor Kristin Kuster and others. 8 p.m., UMMA Apse, 525 S. State. Free. 764-0395.

"54th Annual Study Break Concert": U-M Friars. This self-styled "crack squad of supercrooners" is an a cappella octet drawn from the Men's Glee Club. 8 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. \$5 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and Ticketmaster.com; \$6 at the door. 763-TKTS.

131st Annual "Messiah": University Choral Union (University Musical Society). Dec. 5 & 6. Jerry Blackstone directs the Choral Union, harpsichordist Edward Parmentier, and members of the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra in Handel's beloved oratorio. The soloists, all established professionals with national or international reputations, are soprano Ava Pine, countertenor Anthony Roth Costanzo, tenor Robert Bracey, and baritone Kyle Ketelsen. The Choral Union *Messiah*, featuring a thunderous sing-along of the "Hallelujah" Chorus, has been an Ann Arbor tradition ever since organist (and U-M president) Henry Frieze led an impromptu community chorus in the spring of 1879, a performance that led to the formation of both the Choral Union and the UMS. 8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Tickets \$10-\$32 in advance at the Michigan League Box Office & ums.org, and (if available) at the door. To charge by phone, call 764-2538 or (800) 221-1229.

"Patience": U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society. See 3 Thursday. 2 & 8 p.m.

"Annie": Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 3 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Christmas Carol'd": Performance Network Professional Season. See 3 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"If Only in My Dreams": Blackbird Theatre. See 4 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Impossible Marriage": Ann Arbor Civic Theatre. See 4 Friday. 8 & 10 p.m.

"Escanaba": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 2 Wednesday. 3 & 8 p.m.

The Impro-fessionals: U-M Hillel. Performance by this U-M Jewish student improv comedy troupe. 8 p.m., Michigan League Henderson Room. Cost TBA. 769-0500.

Lisa Lampanelli: Live Nation. This acerbic, raunchy comic has been described as "a cross between Don Rickles, Archie Bunker, and a vial of estrogen." A frequent guest on Jay Leno and Howard Stern's shows, Lampanelli has also made 2 hit specials for Comedy Central. 8 p.m., Michigan Theatre. Tickets \$39.50 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office, Ticketmaster.com, & all other Ticketmaster outlets. To charge by phone, call (800) 745-3000.

Dan Grueter: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 3 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

International Folk Dancing. Dancing to live music by the Ethnic Connection. Preceded at 8 p.m. by a lesson. 8-11 p.m., the barn at Gretchen's House V, 2625 Traver. \$8-\$10 (students, \$3-\$5) donation. 995-0011.

"Milonga Picante": Michigan Argentine Tango Club. Dec. 5 & 19. Tango dancing to music spun by a DJ. Note: People not affiliated with the U-M must arrive before 9 p.m. 9 p.m.-1 a.m., Michigan League Vandenberg Room. Free. 973-2338.

"Serious about Salsa" Latin Dance Party: danceRevolution Dance Studio. Dec. 5 & 19. High-energy dance party with salsa, merengue, bachata, and cha-cha dancing to recorded music spun by a DJ. No partner necessary. 9 p.m.-1 a.m., danceRevolution, 220 S. Main. \$5. 945-8428.

6 SUNDAY

"A2Sunday Runners": Two Dogs Running. Every Sun. All invited to join informal runs of 5-7 miles along various scenic routes. 8:30 a.m., meet at Sweetwaters Coffee & Tea, Kerrytown. Free. 657-0214.

Christmas Bazaar: St. Aidan's Episcopal Church/Northside Presbyterian Church. 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m., St. Aidan's/Northside, 1679 Broadway at Baits Dr. Free admission. 663-5503.

Mission Marketplace: First Presbyterian Church. Show and sale of a variety of Third World handmade goods. 10 a.m.-2 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. Free admission. 662-4466.

Holiday Gifts: The Sunday Artisan Market. Dec. 6, 13, & 20. Also, artist demos Dec. 6 & 13. 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Farmers' Market, Kerrytown. Free admission. 913-9622.

"Gift-Fest 2009": Ann Arbor Artists' Collective. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. (just south of Oak Valley Dr.). Free admission. 272-2901.

"Lifting the Lid of an Amish Trunk": Ann Arbor Unitarian Fellowship. Talk by Delphi Belli Dance owner Elizabeth Vouvakis. 10 a.m., Burns Park Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 994-4473.

★Ultimate Frisbee: H.A.C. Ultimate. Every Sun. All invited to a very relaxed pickup game of this spirited team sport. Note: Overly competitive play-

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ers are politely asked to leave. 10:30 a.m., Mitchell Field, south side of Fuller Rd. just west of Bonisteel. Free. 846-9418.

***First Singles: First Presbyterian Church.** Every Sun. A weekly program open to all single adults interested in contemporary Christian topics, new ideas, personal growth, and social and physical activities. Today: First Singles member Marcy Toon discusses Walter Russell Bowie's *Men of Fire*, *Torchbearers of the Gospel*. Also this month: First Singles members display their crèches (Dec. 13), Christmas carol singing (Dec. 20), and an open discussion (Dec. 27) of anything pertaining to the holidays. 11 a.m., First Presbyterian Church Curtis Room, 1432 Wash-tenaw. Free. 662-4466, ext. 43.

26th Annual Alternative Holiday Fair: Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice. Handmade arts and crafts from Ten Thousand Villages, SERRV, and other local organizations selling fairly traded goods and/or items that promote peace and justice. Also, Heifer Project animals on site for petting. 11 a.m.-3 p.m., First Baptist Church, 512 E. Huron. Free admission. 663-1870.

"A New England Country Christmas": Cobblestone Farm Association. Re-creation of mid-19th-century Christmases, with period decorations, cooking on the woodstove, and live music. Also, a chance to visit with Father Christmas. Costumed interpreters provide tours of the restored 1844 Ticknor-Campbell farmhouse and its grounds, including a barnyard with live animals. Attendees can dip a candle to take home. Gift shop. Noon-4 p.m., Cobblestone Farm, 2781 Packard (next to Buhr Park). \$3 (kids, \$1.50; family, \$7) suggested donation. 794-6230.

***"Solo Recital Showcase": Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts.** Performances by AASPA violin, piano, voice, trumpet, trombone, and cello students. 12:30, 2, & 3:30 p.m., AASPA, 637 S. Main. Free. 213-2000.

Michigan Marching Band Annual Crisler Concert. A festive concert featuring highlights of the past season's pregame and halftime shows, plus U-M school songs. 12:30 p.m., Crisler Arena. Tickets \$10 (kids age 11 & under, \$3) in advance at U-M Credit Union branches, and at the door. 764-0582.

***Storytime: Downtown Borders.** Every Sun. A Borders staffer reads stories for kids. 1 p.m., Borders, 612 E. Liberty. Free. 668-7652.

***"Eco-Sundays": Found.** Every Sun. Demos on how to use recycled materials for various arts and crafts. Dec. 6: art socks made from unraveled sweaters. Dec. 13: pillows and clothing made from recycled wool. Dec. 20: TBA. Dec. 27: gift tags made from old holiday cards. 1-3 p.m., Found, Kerrytown Shops (2nd floor). Free. 302-3060.

"Historic Homes for the Holiday": Saline Downtown Merchants Association. Several homes are decorated for the holidays on N. Ann Arbor St. in Saline's historic district. 1-4 p.m., begin at Union School, 200 N. Ann Arbor St., Saline. Tickets \$3 in advance in downtown Saline at several locations TBA at salinedma.org, and on the day of the tour. 368-8297.

***Comic Artists Forum: Ann Arbor District Library.** Comics artist Jerzy Drozd, a contributing editor to the online comics anthology sugaryserials.com, offers drawing and publishing tips for adults and teens in grade 6 & up. Bring your favorite drawing tools. 1-2:30 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower between Stone School & Packard. Free. 327-4200.

"The Best Christmas Pageant Ever": Saline Area Players. See 4 Friday. 1 p.m.

***"Holiday Crafts": Whole Kids Club.** For kids ages 3-12. 1:30-3 p.m., Washtenaw Whole Foods, 3135 Washtenaw Ave. Free. Preregistration required. 975-4500.

"Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing": Theaterworks USA Two Beans Productions (Michigan Theater Foundation "Not Just for Kids Series"). This renowned New York City-based children's theater troupe presents its hilarious stage adaptation of Judy Blume's story of sibling rivalry between a fourth-grade boy and his meddler and disgustingly cute toddler brother. For families with kids in grades 2-5. 1:30 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets \$14 (MTF members, \$12) in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office & all other Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

***Winter Hikes: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission.** Dec. 6 & 12. Led by WCPARC naturalist Faye Stoner. Dec. 6: "To the River and Back—Exploring Sharon Mills West." (2-4 p.m., Sharon Mills Park west entrance, meet in the parking lot off the gravel part of Sharon Hollow Rd., north of Pleasant Lake Rd., Manchester.) Dec. 12: "Heading into Winter" (1-2:30 p.m., meet near the playground at County Farm Park, 2230 Platt Rd.), a kids hike to look for seeds, fruits, animal homes, insects, and more. Various times, various locations. Free. 971-6337, ext. 334.

***"Kerry Tales: Surprise! Surprise! Says Mother Goose": Kerrytown Shops.** 30-minute family-oriented program of rhymes, riddles, and stories with local storyteller Trudy Bulkley as Mother Goose. 2 p.m., Hollander's, 407 N. Fifth Ave. (Kerrytown). Free. 769-3115.

***"Kids Sing!": Ann Arbor District Library.** Local musician Diane Kimball sings fun songs and plays the dulcimer and kantele (a Finnish zither) for kids in grades K-3 (accompanied by an adult). 2-2:45 p.m., AADL Traverwood Branch, 3333 Traverwood at Huron Pkwy. Free. 327-4200.

***"The Lens of Impressionism": U-M Museum of Art.** Dec. 6, 9, 13, 19, 20, & 27. Docent-led tours of the current exhibit. 2 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State. Free. 764-0395.

***Gabriel Richard High School Madrigal Singers: Barnes & Noble.** Anne Kolaczowski directs this high school ensemble in a program of traditional Christmas music. 2 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973-1618.

"11th Annual Tuba Christmas." All invited to bring an instrument, a folding chair, and a music stand to join around 40 players in an outdoor performance of holiday carols on tubas, euphoniums, sousaphones, and baritone horns. One of many outdoor concerts held today across the nation and in Canada in memory of tuba legend William Bell. Registration and rehearsal at the U-M music school (1100 Baitts Dr. off Broadway) begins at 9:30 a.m. Music books available (\$11). Dress warmly. 2-3 p.m., U-M Diag. \$7. Free to spectators. 395-9544.

Hometown Holiday Benefit Concert: Saline Fiddlers ReStrung. This local touring teen fiddle ensemble plays traditional American fiddle songs, bluegrass, and high-energy American folk. Proceeds benefit Toys 4 Tots. 2 p.m., Saline High School Ellen Ewing Performing Arts Center, 1300 Campus Dr., Saline. \$10. 994-2283.

***"An Afternoon of World Performance": Ann Arbor District Library/U-M Center for World Performance Studies.** Russian-born poet, singer-songwriter, and pianist Pavel Lion, who sings in English, Russian, French, and Yiddish, performs his one-man show that blends folk, klezmer, rap, sound poetry, cabaret, and poststructuralist theory. U-M Center for Afroamerican and African Studies program associate Elizabeth James, a 3rd-generation storyteller, presents traditional and new stories drawn from a rich family heritage that traces back to a freed slave in New Orleans. Detroit Folk-dance Club instructor Sylvia Meloche offers a lively presentation, with audience participation encouraged, of easy dance steps from several countries. Local guitarist John Sargent, who also accompanies James, plays a set of traditional ballads, blues, and acoustic and electric jazz. 2-3:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-4555.

131st Annual "Messiah": University Choral Union (University Musical Society). See 5 Saturday. 2 p.m.

"The Nutcracker": Youth Dance Theater of Michigan. See 4 Friday. 2 p.m.

"Patience": U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society. See 3 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"If Only in My Dreams": Blackbird Theatre. See 4 Friday. 2 p.m.

"Impossible Marriage": Ann Arbor Civic Theatre. See 4 Friday. 2 p.m.

"Christmas Carol'd": Performance Network Professional Season. See 3 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Escanaba": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 2 Wednesday. 2 p.m.

"Cinderella": Ypsilanti Area Dancers. See 5 Saturday. 3 p.m.

"A Christmas Carol": Family Theater Project. See 5 Saturday. 3 p.m.

"The Prince, the Wolf, and the Firebird": EMU Theater Department. See 4 Friday. 3 p.m.

"Annie": Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 3 Thursday. 3 p.m.

***"Beauty Out of Thin Air": Ann Arbor Civic Chorus.** Linda Jones directs this local chorus in song settings of poems by W.B. Yeats, James Agee, and Emily Dickinson. Also, jazz and pop songs with accompaniment by Old School, the local trio of keyboardist Martin Simmons, pianist Ted Wyman, and French hornist Katie Mattie. 3 p.m., Forsythe Middle School Auditorium, 1655 Newport Rd. Free. 717-7324.

Holiday Concert: Ypsilanti Symphony Orchestra. Adam Riccinto directs this volunteer community orchestra with guest jazz vocalist Susan Chastain and the Lincoln High School all-female chorus Split Dimensions. Program: Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker Suite*, Rutter's carol "What Sweeter Music," local jazz composer Paul Keller's arrangement of Irving Berlin's "White Christmas," Mel Torme and Bob Wells' "The Christmas Song," Chuck Sayre's med-



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Saturday December 12, 3 p.m.
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"A Puppet History of Ypsilanti": Dreamland Theater. Every Sun. The Dreamland Puppet Troupe presents its kid-friendly marionette and shadow puppet show about Ypsilanti history, from the formation of the Great Lakes to the founding of the Ypsilanti Underwear Company in 1904. 3:30 p.m., Dreamland, 26 N. Washington, Ypsilanti. \$5 (kids age 3 & under, free). 657-2337.

23rd Annual Winter Concert: Ann Arbor Youth Chorale. Ensembles of talented local young singers perform works TBA. 4 p.m., Bethlehem United Church of Christ, 423 S. Fourth Ave. Tickets \$10 (students, seniors, & kids; \$5) at the door only. 996-4404.

"An Evening of Musical Comedy: EMU Music Department. MeeAe Nam and Robert Peavler direct EMU opera students in scenes from Mozart's *The Magic Flute* and *Così fan Tutte*, Gilbert & Sullivan's *The Mikado*, and more. 4 p.m., EMU Alexander Recital Hall, Lowell at E. Circle Dr., Ypsilanti. Free. 487-2255.

32nd Annual Boar's Head Festival: Concordia University. See 5 Saturday. 4 p.m.

"13th Annual Evening of Dinner & Jazz": African American Cultural & Historical Museum Fund-Raiser. Buffet dinner with live jazz by Ron Brooks & Friends, an ensemble led by veteran local bassist (and former Bird of Paradise owner) Brooks and featuring Betty Joplin, a silky-voiced jazz singer from Lansing with a vocal style somewhere between Aretha Franklin and Natalie Cole and a repertoire that blends Sarah Vaughan and Nancy Wilson. Cash bar. 5-8 p.m., Washtenaw Country Club, 2955 Packard. Tickets \$50 in advance at aachm.org. 761-1717.

Ann Arbor Morris. Every Sun. All invited to try this boisterous, jingly English ceremonial dance based on the 15th-century Spanish *moresca*. Wear athletic shoes. 6-8 p.m., Gretchen's House VII barn, 1580 Dhu Varren Rd. Free. Email a2morris@umich.edu to confirm. 747-8138.

Society of Women Engineers Book Club. All invited to join a discussion of *The Poisonwood Bible*, Barbara Kingsolver's novel about an evangelical Baptist who takes his family to the Belgian Congo in 1959. 6-8 p.m., Borders cafe, 612 E. Liberty. Free. 668-7652.

Winter Concert: Kol Hakavod. This popular chorus, dubbed the "U-M's Jewish a cappella sensation," sings a program that ranges from Israeli pop to traditional Hebrew songs to Top 40 hits. 6 p.m., U-M Hillel, 1429 Hill St. \$7 (students, \$5). 769-0500.

"Holiday Choral Concert": Measure for Measure. This local men's chorus and the Bowling Green State University Men's Chorus perform separate programs of holiday songs. The two groups also come together to sing Biehl's Ave Maria and Helvey's "Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day." 7 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church, 1501 W. Liberty. \$20 (seniors & students, \$15) in advance and at the door. 649-7664.

Music for Contemplation Series, Advent 2009: St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. Dec. 6, 13, & 20. Recitals by local organists. Today: St. Andrew's music director Deborah Friauff. 7:15 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Free. 663-0518.

U-M Ballroom Dancers. Every Sun. except Dec. 27. Ballroom dancing to recorded music, including fox-trots, waltzes, cha-chas, rumbas, tangos, swing, and more. No partner necessary. Preceded at 7 p.m. by beginning lessons and practice. 8-10 p.m., Michigan League Ballroom (Dec. 6) & Michigan Union Ballroom (Dec. 13 & 20). \$3. 763-6984.

Chad Burrow: U-M School of Music. This U-M clarinet professor plays Alwyn's Sonata for Clarinet and Piano, Brahms' Sonata no. 1 in F Minor, Bozza's *Bucolique*, Debussy's *Arabesque* no. 1, and Giacoma's Fantasy on themes from Mascagni's *Cavalleria Rusticana*. Accompanist TBA. 8 p.m., U-M Music School Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764-0594.

Yin Zheng, Wei-Wei Le, & Una O'Riordan: U-M School of Music. Oakland University piano professor Zheng, University of Nevada violin professor Le, and Detroit Symphony Orchestra cellist O'Riordan perform works by Schubert, Franck, and Schoenfeld. 8 p.m., U-M Walgreen Drama Center Stamps Auditorium, 1226 Murfin, North Campus. Free. 764-0594.

7 MONDAY

Weekly Rehearsal: Women's Chamber Chorus. Every Mon. through Dec. 14. All invited to join this independent 30-member local women's chorus to sing everything from Bach and Hungarian folk songs

to madrigals and pop tunes. David Perampl directs. 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m., West Side United Methodist Church, 900 S. Seventh. Free to visitors (\$100 per semester dues for those who join). (586) 504-1155, 769-0784.

"Playgroups for Babies": Ann Arbor District Library. Play group for kids up to 24 months, accompanied by an adult. No older siblings. Note: Play groups are also offered (through the week of Dec. 7) at the Malletts Creek (Tues., 10-11 a.m., & Thurs., 6:30-7:30 p.m.), Pittsfield (Wed., 11 a.m.-noon), and Traverwood (Fri., 10:30-11:30 a.m.) branches. 10:30-11:30 a.m., AADL, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-8301 (main library), 327-4200 (branches).

"The Rise of the Middle East in the Time of the Crusades": U-M Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies/U-M Center for Near Eastern Studies. Lecture by University of Jena (Germany) Islamic artistic and material culture professor Stefan Heidemann. Heidemann also gives a lecture at 4 p.m. on "Formulating an Islamic Iconography" (202 S. Thayer, Room 2022). Noon, 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764-0350.

Duplicate Bridge: Ann Arbor Senior Center. Every Mon. All seniors age 55 & over invited to play. Bring a partner. Also, at 1 p.m., mah-jongg (free). 12:45-4 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. \$2. 769-5911.

"The Army's Proclaimed 'Culture Shift': Combat-Related PTSD at Fort Carson, Colorado": U-M Anthropology Department. Lecture by Colorado College anthropology professor Sarah Hautzinger. 4 p.m., 210 West Hall, 1085 South University. 764-7274.

U-M English Department Zell Visiting Writers Series. See 1 Tuesday. Today: poetry reading by Piotr Sommer, a Polish poet and translator whose "language is quite plain, understated, but so fastidiously gestural and resonant with the everyday that it resists translation," says one translator of Sommer's 2009 collection, *Morning on Earth*. 5:15 p.m.

"A Course in Miracles": Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth. Every Mon. All invited to read from and discuss this popular Foundation for Inner Peace metaphysical book. Also, local social worker Lorraine Coburn leads a study group on the book, every Thurs., noon-1:30 p.m. 6:45-8:45 p.m., Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, 704 Airport Blvd. Donation. 327-0270.

Health Talks: Washtenaw Whole Foods Market. Dec. 7 & 8. Today: local holistic health practitioner Cindy Klement on "Get Up and Go with Energizing Herbs." Dec. 8: local chiropractor Darren Schmidt on "Parasites in You." 7 p.m., Whole Foods Cooking & Lifestyles Classroom, 3135 Washtenaw Ave. Free. Preregistration required. 975-4500.

"The Art Student's War": Downtown Borders. Detroit-born writer Brad Leithauser reads from his new novel, set in Detroit during WW II, about a young artist who's asked to draw portraits of wounded soldiers in a local hospital. Signing. 7 p.m., Borders, 612 E. Liberty. Free. 668-7652.

Large Ensemble Meeting: Ann Arbor Recorder Society. All beginning and advanced players of the recorder and other early instruments invited. Directed by local flutist Tim Tikker. Music provided; bring your own music stand. 7:30-9:30 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Free to visitors (\$30 annual dues for those who join). 213-3172.

Dream Group. Every Mon. (tentative). All invited to join veteran local social worker Rebecca Mullen to discuss their dreams from Jungian, Buddhist, and other spiritual perspectives. 7:30 p.m., 215 N. Seventh St. Donation. 662-5925.

Tartan & Thistle Scottish Country Dancers. Dec. 7 & 14. Instruction in a wide range of traditional and contemporary Scottish dances, followed by social dancing. Soft-sole shoes recommended. The Dec. 14 dance is preceded at 6:30 p.m. by a holiday potluck (bring a dish to pass). 7:30-9:30 p.m., the barn at Gretchen's House V, 2625 Traver Rd. (off Nixon Rd.). \$5. 769-1052.

"Dialogues and Entertainments": U-M Symphony Band. Michael Haithcock directs this music student ensemble in Gabrieli's *Three Pieces*, Bach's *Toccata and Fugue in D Minor*, William Kraft's *Dialogues and Entertainments*, Jacob Ter Veldhuis's *Tallahatchie Concerto*, and Michael Daugherty's *Bells for Stokowski*. 8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 764-0594.

Faculty Recital: U-M Residential College. Avant-jazz originals by E3C, an RC music faculty trio featuring cellist Katri Ervamaa, percussionist Michael Gould, and trumpeter Mark Kirschenmann, and a mix of groove-based music, traditional jazz, and improvisation by E/N/D, the trio of Gould, Swedish vibes and marimba player Anders Asstrand, and bassist Micke Berglund. The program concludes with the world premiere of E/N/D's *Big Enigmas Meet the Movements of NOW*, a setting of short poems by RC poetry writing teacher Ken

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Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra

*Sing Along
with Santa
goes global!*

The excitement starts to build from several blocks away when we see family after family with little girls in red velvet dresses, white tights, shiny black shoes, and red ribbons in their hair. The sidewalks are slippery as everyone streams towards Bethlehem United Church of Christ on Fourth Avenue near William for the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra's annual "Sing Along with Santa," which returns on Saturday, December 12.

There is nothing in this world that I love better than singing Christmas carols with a beautiful man—even if that man is wearing a big red suit! All pretenses of secular Ann Arbor-ness fall away as we walk into the warm and glittering church, all decorated with lights and bows, the tree gorgeous and reaching towards the ceiling. The pews are packed with families and cute, cute children.

Local radio personality Lucy Ann Lance, with her signature blond curls piled on top of her head, starts off the celebration by talking about how Christmas is celebrated around the world. We start singing "Santa Claus is Coming to Town," but the singing suddenly becomes disjointed as whole sections simply stop in their tracks and gasp, "It's Santa!" as Santa (former A2SO staff member Charley Sullivan) walks in, singing in a beautiful bearded baritone.

I half expect the whole Ann Arbor Symphony to be here today, but I am not disappointed when bassist Erin Zurbuchen and erhu player Xiao Dong Wei take the stage in their matching red Santa hats. Ms. Wei's long bare arm is mesmerizing as it bows back and forth an elegant "Feliz Navidad"



on her two-stringed Chinese fiddle, complemented perfectly by the enormous bass. Together they traverse east and west, with Mongolian horses galloping to see "Mommy Kissing Santa Claus."

After we sing a few more carols, Santa calls all the children to the front of the church and reads "Twas the Night before Christmas. The Ann Arbor Youth Chorale sings a perfectly harmonized "Silent Night." Then we are all divided into twelve sections, and off we embark on "The Twelve Days of Christmas," with the Five Golden Rings really hamming it up.

Afterwards, everyone goes down to the basement for cider, cookies, and photos with Santa. So that's why everyone is so dressed up! The only way I can convince my surly preteens to indulge me and take a family picture with Santa, however, is to pay each one \$5. Other parents with much younger children look at me aghast. As the Indonesian *angklung* ensemble performs, Little Brother finally gets his chance to ask Santa, "Do you like mochi?" (the Japanese sweet we leave him each year) and "How do you get into houses with no chimney?" Santa has the answer: "Through the rice cooker, of course!"

—Frances Kai-Hwa Wang

Mikolowski with dance accompaniment by University of Arts (Berlin) creative drama studies lecturer Nadja Raszewski. E/N/D is joined for this piece by Mikolowski, Raszewski, and local saxophonist Andrew Bishop. 8 p.m., Keene Auditorium, East Quad, 701 East University. Free. 647-4354.

Jolyon Pegis & Joel Schoenhals: Kerrytown Concert House. EMU piano professor Schoenhals and Dallas Symphony cellist Pegis perform Beethoven's Sonata no. 2 in G Minor, Faure's Sonata no. 1 in D Minor, and Brahms' Sonata no. 1 in E Minor. Note: The duo also presents this program on Nov. 6, 8 p.m., at EMU Alexander Recital Hall. 8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. \$10-\$25 (students, \$5). Reservations recommended. 769-2999.

Pub Quiz: Conor O'Neill's Irish Pub. Every Mon. Local high school English teacher Geoff Cost throws out questions for anyone to answer at this popular weekly trivia fest. Prizes. 8:30-11:30 p.m., Conor O'Neill's, 318 S. Main. \$5 team fee. 665-2968.

8 TUESDAY

"Chanukah Wonderland": U-M Chabad House. Dec. 8-16. Kids activities and other activities TBA. On Dec. 13 at 1 p.m., a fire juggling show. 10 a.m.-9 p.m. (Dec. 8-12 & 14-16) & 11 a.m.-6 p.m. (Dec. 13), Sears wing of Briarwood. \$3 admission. 995-3276.

"Top Vino Value Picks for 2009": Vinology. Strolling tastings of around 25 wines that sell for \$20 a bottle or less. Light appetizers. 7 p.m., Vinology, 110 S. Main. \$25. Reservations required. 222-9841.

*Socrates Cafe: Nicola's Books. Dec. 8 & 22. All invited to join a philosophical discussion that draws on the Socratic method of questioning underlying assumptions. 7 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate shopping center. (440) 476-0430.

*"For the Interest of Bees": U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens. An expert TBA discusses beekeeping. Followed by a Q&A and (tentatively) a hands-on activity. 7-9 p.m., Matthaei, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 647-7600.

*"Translating Knowledge: Global Perspectives on Museums and Community": U-M Museum of Art Lecture Series. Talk by Australian National University anthropology professor Howard Morphy. 7 p.m., UMMA Helmut Stern Auditorium, 525 S. State. Free. 764-0395.

*"Slow: Life in a Tuscan Town": Nicola's Books. Filmmaker, photographer, and writer Douglas Gayeton discusses his portrait of the rural Italian way of life that inspired the Slow Food movement. Signing. 7 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662-0600.

*EMU Jazz & Percussion Ensembles: EMU Music Department. John Dorsey and Donald Babcock direct these 2 music student ensembles in a program of Stan Kenton, Gordon Goodwin, and Art Blakey & the Jazz Messengers. 7 p.m., EMU Alexander Recital Hall, Lowell at E. Circle Dr., Ypsilanti. Free. 487-2255.

*Sierra Club Book Club: Nicola's Books. All invited to discuss *Gaia's Garden*, Toby Hemenway's book about ecological gardening. 7:30 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate shopping center. Free. 971-1157.

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Ann Arbor Figure Skating Club 2010 Winter Sessions Learn to Skate Group Lessons

(Classes held at the Ann Arbor Ice Cube)

Classes

Tuesdays	6:15pm to 7:05pm
Thursdays	6:15pm to 7:05pm
Saturdays	10:15am to 11:05am

Winter Classes - January 5 through March 13, 2010

Registration begins December 1, 2009

Shooting Stars Program

Shooting Stars is an introduction to freestyle skating for badges 6 and above, presented in a fun group class. Skaters will learn a freestyle routine containing jumps and spins as well as continue to improve their skating fundamentals. Off ice dance included as part of program.

Same dates as above

Saturdays, 9:15 to 11:00am

Includes off-ice dance class following ice time.

Hockey Classes for 3 to 6 year olds!

These classes will be held on Tuesdays, 6:15pm to 7:05pm

Classes are designed for the beginning hockey skater.

It is recommended that skaters complete the Snow Plow Sam 1 class before taking a hockey class. Equipment is optional.

You are invited to attend a Winter Exhibition by AAFSC skaters on Sunday, December 13th from noon-2:00 pm. Admission is by donation of cans of food or donation to benefit the Laura Maki Medical Fund.

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Charles McGee at Eighty-Five

Choosing what to see

"It taught me a lot about what I didn't want to see," says Detroit artist and former EMU art professor Charles McGee of his experience as a marine in post-bomb Nagasaki. The quote comes from a video in the University and Ford galleries at EMU, where a retrospective of his work, *Energy: Charles McGee at Eighty-Five*, covers everything from Picasso-esque portraits painted in the 1950s to huge enamel paintings done this year. It seems a fitting epigraph to his work, since most of the pieces explode in violent zigzags of paint and operate on some level of abstraction—an exercise in choosing what to see.

McGee's most recognizable works are the frenzied paintings and collages he's been making since the 1980s. Although the paintings are highly abstract, with huge snakelike squiggles and a palette that alternates dizzyingly between neutral colors and electric primaries, the busy splashes often dance around human figures. The people in these paintings are abstract as well, usually just stark silhouettes with large heads and skinny limbs. Their pointy-fingered hands and sharp elbows, arranged hieroglyphically, suggest urgency, but it's hard to tell whether they're dancing or running. Their faces are generally blank, but some have wild eyes and huge, toothy grins that look far more manic than happy.

Several depict Noah's Ark, but without the usual calm brown boat and sunny pan-



Play Patterns

orama of zoo animals. Instead, human limbs tangle with snakes and squiggles. Black and white jumbles with splotches of brightly colored enamel float in space. In one piece, a purple-spotted giraffe is the only recogniz-

galleries

able non-snake animal. Although a couple paintings have "celebration" in the title, they seem more ecstatic than joyful. The flood of abstraction strands any sense of security, upturning the biblical story and clouding easy explanations. Some are cut out of metal, 2-D sculptures that discard even the refuge of rectangular borders.

McGee's brooding charcoal drawings from the sixties and seventies are more visually accessible than his later work. In these, people are rooted in their surroundings, perhaps trapped in them. He achieves this effect by coloring the paper in with black charcoal pencil, and then drawing with an eraser, lifting out all the negative space.

Bodies aren't sketched in; they emerge, giving the impression that they had always been there. Half a child's face, imprisoned between a girl's patterned skirt and the grid-like suggestion of a jungle gym, looks forlorn, wary, and weary—a common expression in these early drawings. One piece is a bird's-eye view of people walking down a sidewalk. Their silhouettes bleed into the long shadows they cast on the concrete. In *Dialogue*, several people huddle together, their black hands and heads resting on top of their patterned shirts. Some of the erased lines that mark the clothing continue into the background, disregarding the body's boundaries and putting the people in dialogue with the space. Although they're less flashy than the later works, the gravity of these drawings commands attention and makes them the dark highlight of the exhibit, which continues into the new year.

—Katie Whitney

Exhibit openings:

Ann Arbor Art Center, 117 W. Liberty. *Our World—At War* (Dec. 1–22), contemporary photos from Liberia, Afghanistan, Lebanon, and the Philippines. Mon.–Sat. 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Sun. noon–5:30 p.m. 994–8004.

Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living, 3941 Research Park Dr. *Touching the Spirit* (Dec. 1–13), works by AACIL participants and U-M art and design students. Reception Dec. 7, 2–6 p.m. Mon.–Fri. 9 a.m.–5 p.m. 971–0277.

Ann Arbor District Library, Downtown Branch, 343 S. Fifth Ave.: *The Art of Nature: Michigan Quilt Artists Invitational Exhibit and 2008–2009 Photo Contest Exhibit: City of Ann Arbor's Natural Area Preservation* (Dec. 2–Jan. 14). **Malletts Creek Branch**, 3090 E. Eisenhower: *American Institute of Architects Huron Valley 2009 Honors Submissions* (Dec. 18–Jan. 31). Mon. 10 a.m.–9 p.m., Tues.–Fri. 9 a.m.–9 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.–6 p.m., Sun. noon–6 p.m. 327–4510.

Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum, 220 E. Ann. *Bob the Builder—Project: Build It* (through Feb. 28). Mon.–Wed. and Fri. & Sat. 10 a.m.–5 p.m., Thurs. 9 a.m.–5 p.m., Sun. noon–5 p.m. 995–5439.

Gallery Project, 215 S. Fourth Ave. *Spring 2010 Collection* (Dec. 9–Jan. 11). Clothing by 20 artists. Reception and fashion show Dec. 11, 6–9 p.m. Tues.–Sat. noon–9 p.m., Sun. noon–4 p.m. 997–7012.

Gifts of Art (U-M Hospitals): Main Hospital: Color & Light: Gouache, Cut, & Pasted Paper by Peter Crow; *Close to the Land: Oil Paintings* by Mary Andersen;

Folk Art Wood Carvings by Marlene Dusbiber (Dec. 14–Feb. 8, Mon.–Fri. 8 a.m.–8 p.m.). **Taubman Center: Exodus & the Flood: Storytelling Snowflakes by Thomas Clark; *Child's Play: Porcelain Sculpture* by Yiu-Keung Lee; *K-12 Student Art Exhibition* (Dec. 14–Feb. 8, Mon.–Fri. 8 a.m.–8 p.m.). **Cancer Center: The Sisters: Works in Clay by Kristine Morcy Cravens; *Katmandu to Everest Base Camp: Photography* by Heather O'Neal (Dec. 14–Apr. 12, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.). 936–ARTS.****

Museum on Main Street, 500 N. Main. *Trains in Toyland* (Dec. 12–Jan. 24). See 12 Saturday events listing. Wed., Sat., & Sun. noon–4 p.m. and by appointment. 662–9092.

River Gallery, 120 N. Main, Chelsea. *Paintings* by Barry Avedon (Dec. 2–Jan. 9). Reception Dec. 12, 5–8 p.m. Wed.–Sat. 11 a.m.–5 p.m., Sun. noon–4 p.m. 433–0826.

Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron, Ypsilanti. *Creative Paths in Fiber* (through Dec. 12). Thurs.–Sat. 3–9 p.m., Sun. 1:30–4 p.m. 480–2787.

U-M Duderstadt Center Gallery, 2281 Bonisteel. *College of Engineering Faculty and Staff Arts & Crafts Show '09* (through Dec. 4). Mon.–Fri. noon–6 p.m. 763–3266.

U-M Ford Presidential Library, 1000 Beal. *Christmas Quilts* (Dec. 1–Jan. 15). Mon.–Fri. 8:45 a.m.–4:45 p.m. 205–0555.

U-M Hatcher Graduate Library, North Lobby. *200 Years of Cookies* (Dec. 7–Jan. 15), a display of cookbooks and 19th-century photographs of cookie

cutters and cookie molds. Sun. 1 p.m.–2 a.m., Mon.–Thurs. 8 a.m.–2 a.m., Fri. 8 a.m.–6 p.m. 615–5783.

U-M Institute for the Humanities Gallery, 202 S. Thayer. *Book of Iterations: Books, Sculpture, and Installation* by Pippa Skotnes (through Jan. 22). Reception Dec. 3, 6–8 p.m. Mon.–Fri. 9 a.m.–5 p.m. 936–3518.

U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. *Wild Wonderful Winter* (Dec. 3–Jan. 17). Tues. & Thurs.–Sun. 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Wed. 10 a.m.–8 p.m. 647–7808.

U-M Museum of Art, 525 S. State. *The Eye of the Beholder: European Drawings and Prints from the Pulgram-McSparran Collection* (Dec. 19–Mar. 14). Tues., Wed., & Sat. 10 a.m.–5 p.m.; Thurs. & Fri. 10 a.m.–10 p.m.; Sun. noon–5 p.m. 764–0395.

U-M Rackham Galleries, 915 E. Washington. *Cameraless Photo-Collages* by Kim Kauffman (through Dec. 18). See 13 Sunday. Mon.–Fri., 9 a.m.–5 p.m. 998–6270.

WSG Gallery, 306 S. Main. *Annual Holiday Show* (Dec. 7–24). Tues. & Wed. noon–6 p.m., Thurs.–Sat. noon–10 p.m., Sun. noon–4 p.m. 761–2287.

Ypsilanti Historical Museum, 220 N. Huron, Ypsilanti. *Christmas Exhibit* (through Dec. 31). Reception Dec. 6, 2–5 p.m. "Holiday Celebration" Dec. 7, 6–9 p.m. Tues.–Sun. 2–5 p.m. 482–4990.

For a complete listing of local galleries, see the 2009–2010 Ann Arbor Observer City Guide or arborweb.com.

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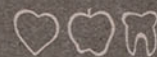
After serving the Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti area for over 17 years, we have relocated our office to a new central location at 529 N. Hewitt Road between Packard Road and Washtenaw Avenue.

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★**Loose Leaf Readings: Ann Arbor Wordworks.** Open mike for teen poets and writers. The program begins with a reading by a local poet or writer TBA. 7:30 p.m., TeaHaus, 204 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 622–0460.

★**"Lift Every Voice and Sing": The Willis Patterson Our Own Thing Chorale 34th Annual Christmas Concert.** U-M music professor emeritus Willis Patterson directs this popular local choir in works by Moses Hogan, James Lee, Charles Brown, Stacey Gibb, and Brazeal Dennard. 8 p.m., Bethel AME Church, 900 John A. Woods Dr. Free; donations accepted. 769–4437.

9 WEDNESDAY

★**"Holiday Gift Fair": Zingerman's Delicatessen.** 4–7:30 p.m., Zingerman's Next Door (upstairs), 422 Detroit St. Free admission. 663–3354.

★**"Annual Potluck and Members Slide Show": Wild Ones.** Members give short slide-illustrated talks about their adventures with native plants. Also, potluck (bring a dish to pass and your own table service). 6:45 p.m., 125 U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1600 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 662–9997.

★**Ypsilanti–Ann Arbor Area Robotics Club.** All invited to meet robotics hobbyists and check out and discuss their current gadgets and toys. 7 p.m., A2 Mech Shop, 240 Parkland Plaza, 179 Little Lake Dr. (off eastbound Jackson between Wagner & Zeeb). Free. 332–1000.

★**"How to Make a Revolution: A Guide to Romania's Fin-de-Siècle Media Spectacle as Performed by a Dying Regime, a Willing Populace, and the International Press Corps."** U-M Center for Russian & East European Studies. Talk by NPR commentator Andrei Codrescu, a renowned Romanian-born poet, novelist, and essayist. 7–8:30 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Free. 764–0351.

★**"Holiday Party": Mothers and More.** All moms invited to join a white elephant gift exchange (bring one to swap). Games. Refreshments. Bring hors d'oeuvres or a dessert to share. 7–9 p.m., Gladwin Meeting Place, 4105 W. Liberty. Free. 527–6880.

★**Fiction Readers Group: Barnes & Noble.** All invited to join a discussion of *The City of Thieves*, David Benioff's novel based on his grandfather's stories about surviving the WW II siege of Leningrad.

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Note: Most educational documentaries are listed
with the daily Events.

Ann Arbor District Library. FREE. 327-
4555. AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave.,
7-8:30 p.m.

Dec. 30: "Santa Claus Conquers the Martians"
(Nicholas Webster, 1964). Martians kidnap Santa
because there is nobody on Mars to give presents to
their children (one of whom is played by the emi-
nently forgettable Pia Zadora in her film debut) in
this icon of what the library is touting as "truly bad
filmmaking."

Michigan Theater Foundation. Unless there
is a live show in the main theater, 2 or 3 different
films are shown, usually twice, almost every night.
For complete, updated schedules, see michtheater.
org or call 668-TIME. Tickets (unless otherwise
noted): \$9 (children, students, seniors, & veterans,
\$7; MTF members, \$6.50). Michigan Theater, times
TBA unless otherwise noted.

Dec. 4-10: "The Messenger" (Oren Moverman,
2009). Drama about a soldier who becomes involved
with a fallen officer's widow. Woody Harrelson.

Dec. 5: "Welcome to Dongmakgol" (Park Kwang-
hyeon, 2005). Drama set during the Korean War
about North and South Korean soldiers and an
American pilot who end up in a secluded village
whose residents are unaware of the war. Sponsored
by the U-M Center for Korean Studies. Korean,
subtitles. 2 p.m.

Dec. 6-8: "Yes Men Fix the World" (Andy Bichl-
baum & Mike Bonanno, 2009). Documentary about
the directors' culture-jamming pranks on corpora-
tions and government agencies, including posing as
Dow execs and convincing the BBC to interview
them.

Dec. 6: "The Shop Around the Corner" (Ernst
Lubitsch, 1940). Romantic comedy about 2 rival
employees in a gift shop who don't realize they are
romantic pen pals. James Stewart, Margaret Sul-
lavan.

Dec. 7: "All That Jazz" (Bob Fosse, 1979).
Semi-autobiographical musical, in which director-
choreographer Fosse looks back, with existen-
tial grimmess, over his life in show business. Roy
Scheider, Jessica Lange.

Dec. 8-10: "Big Fan" (Robert Siegel, 2009). Com-
edy about an obsessive Giants football fan who gets
beaten up by his favorite player.

Dec. 9 & 10: "The Horse Boy" (Michel Scott,
2009). Documentary about a family that travels
through Mongolia in search of a shaman who they
believe can cure their autistic son.

Dec. 12: "White Christmas" (Michael Curtiz,
1954). Sing-along version of this musical about
two nightclub performers who help an old army pal
try to make his winter resort popular. Musical score
by Irving Berlin. Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye, Rose-
mary Clooney. 1:30 p.m.

Refreshments. 7 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Wash-
tenaw. Free. 973-1618.

**★Works-in-Progress Series: Crazy Wisdom
Bookstore & Tea Room.** Reading by College for
Creative Studies (Detroit) English teacher Edward
Morin, a widely published local poet whose books
include *Labor Day at Walden Pond*, a collection of
poems about the daily experiences of white-collar,
middle-class Americans, and *The Red Azalea: Chi-
nese Poetry since the Cultural Revolution*, a collec-
tion of Chinese poems he cotranslated with Guizhou
(China) University English professor Dennis Ding.
Followed by open-mike readings for poets, with a
\$25 prize for the best original poem. 7-9:30 p.m.,
Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665-2757.

★Orpheus Singers: U-M School of Music. Grad
students conduct this music student choir in Bach's
motet "Lobet den Herrn" and 2 Bach cantatas, in-
cluding "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring." 8 p.m., U-M
Walgreen Drama Center Stamps Auditorium, 1226
Murfin, North Campus. Free. 764-0594.

★Concert Band: U-M School of Music. Rodney
Dorsey conducts this music student ensemble in a
program TBA. 8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 764-
0594.

**★Michigan Mobile Phone Ensemble: U-M School
of Music.** Performing arts technology and electrical
engineering and computer science students perform
works they composed for reprogrammed cell phones.

Dec. 12, 17, & other dates TBA: short films from
the 2009 Sundance Film Festival.

Dec. 13: "It's a Wonderful Life" (Frank Capra,
1946). Oh, you know the story. Jimmy Stewart,
Donna Reed. Kids age 12 & under, FREE. 4 p.m.

Dec. 14: "Everyone Says I Love You" (Woody
Allen, 1996). Romantic musical comedy about a
Manhattan family's mishaps in Venice, Paris, and
NYC. Woody Allen, Julia Roberts, Goldie Hawn,
Drew Barrymore, Alan Alda.

Dec. 15: "Love Me Tonight" (Rouben Mamou-
lian, 1932). Musical comedy about a Parisian tailor
who falls in love with a princess when he poses as a
baron to collect money from an aristocrat. Maurice
Chevalier, Jeanette MacDonald.

Dec. 18-24: "Red Cliff" (John Woo, 2008). Epic
set in 3rd-century China about two small kingdoms
that reluctantly form an alliance to face Emperor
Han's million-soldier army.

Dec. 25: "The Music Man" (Morton DaCosta,
1962). Film version of the Broadway hit about a
fast-talking con man who convinces a small town
he can teach their kids music and who falls for
the town librarian. Robert Preston, Shirley Jones.
Also, a sing-along, prizes, and special concessions.
Costumes encouraged. Sponsored by Temple Beth
Emeth. \$7.

Dec. 25-31: "Young Victoria" (Jean-Marc Val-
lee, 2009). Historical drama about the first years of
Queen Victoria's rule. Emily Blunt.

**Projectorhead/U-M Screen Arts & Cul-
tures.** FREE. 615-0445. U-M Museum of Art
Helmut Stern Auditorium, 525 S. State, 7 p.m.

Dec. 3: "Southeast Michigan Salon." Screening
of films by WCC and College for Creative Studies
students.

Dec. 10: "Beaches of Agnes" (Agnes Varda, 2008).
Autobiographical documentary about Varda's art
and life. French, subtitles.

**U-M Center for Chinese Studies. Chinese
Documentary Film Series.** FREE. 764-6308. An-
gell Hall Auditorium A (entrance at the Fishbowl on
the east side of the bldg.), 7 p.m. Mandarin, sub-
titles.

**Dec. 5: "To Tell the Truth: The Liu Binyan Stor-
y"** (Meggie Miao, 2006). Documentary about the
career of this postwar journalist known for his re-
porting on the injustices and sufferings of ordinary
people.

Dec. 12: "A Decent Factory: Nokia in China"
(Thomas Balmes, 2005). Documentary about the
Finnish electronics firm's investigation of condi-
tions in a Chinese factory that supplies it parts.

**U-M Center for International & Compara-
tive Studies.** FREE. 764-2268. 1636 SSWB
(1080 South University), various times.

Dec. 1: "My Time Will Come" (Victor Arregui,
2008). A coroner's fragile emotional life is threat-

ened when he develops a personal interest in his
cases. Spanish, subtitles. 2:30 & 4 p.m.

Dec. 8: "The Photograph" (Nan Triveni Achnas,
2007). A prostitute struggling to support her family
forms a bond with the reclusive portrait photogra-
pher from whom she rents a room. Indonesian, sub-
titles. 2:30 & 4:30 p.m.

Dec. 15: "Songs from the Southern Seas" (Marat
Sarulu, 2008). A darkly comic feud is ignited when
a Russian man suspects his son is the result of an af-
fair between his wife and a Kazakh neighbor. Rus-
sian, subtitles. 2:30 p.m.

**U-M English Department Fantasy and
Science Fiction/Theory Reading Group.**
FREE. 764-2253. Duderstadt Center Videoconfer-
ence Suite (2281 Bonisteel, North Campus), 7 p.m.

Dec. 8: "Night Watch" (Timur Bekmambetov,
2005). Stylish, gory Russian horror-fantasy, set in
Moscow and combining elements of *Blade Runner*,
The Matrix, and *Highlander*, about the possible dis-
ruption of an uneasy truce between good and evil.
Russian, subtitles. Pizza.

U-M Japanese Animation Film Society.
U-M campus admission policy: No one under
18 admitted without an adult. FREE. umich.
edu/~animania. MLB, 812 E. Washington at Thay-
er, 10 a.m.-midnight.

Dec. 5: "Animania." Monthly anime-a-thon of
feature films and episodes from TV series.

**U-M Museum of Art/American Romanian
Festival.** FREE. 764-0395. UMMA Helmut Stern
Auditorium, 525 S. State, various times.

**Dec. 13: American Romanian Festival. Children
of Decree** (Razvan Georgescu & Florin Iepan,
2004). Documentary about Nicolae Ceausescu's
rule in Romania from 1965 to 1989 and his efforts
to increase the population by banning contracep-
tives and outlawing abortion. Romanian, subtitles.
3 p.m. *Architecture and Power* (Nicolae Margin-
eanu, 1994). Documentary about the ways Bucha-
rest architecture reflects totalitarian ideology. Ro-
manian, subtitles. 4:10 p.m.

U-M Screen Arts and Cultures. FREE.
764-0147. Natural Science Auditorium, 6 p.m.-
midnight. **Dec. 18 & 19: "Lightworks Festival."**
Screenings of animated, digital, and 16mm movies
made by film students. Note: The Saturday show is
usually "packed," says an organizer; get there early.

WCBN-FM. FREE admission. 763-3500. Arbor
Brewing Company (114 E. Washington), 8:30 p.m.
Dec. 9: "This Is Spinal Tap" (Rob Reiner, 1984).
Mockumentary about a fictional English hard-rock
band. Christopher Guest, Michael McKean, Harry
Shearer.

like. Nursery care provided for preschoolers. Re-
freshments. 1-2:30 p.m., Westminster Presbyterian
Church social hall, 1500 Scio Church Rd. Free.
995-1645.

**"Flower Arranging": Ikebana International
Chapter 183.** Local Ohara Ikebana expert Anne
Morrison leads a session of Ikebana, the Japanese art
of flower arrangement, using holiday colors. Call to
find out what equipment to bring. 1 p.m., University
Commons, 817 Asa Gray Dr. (off Huron Pkwy.). \$15
(members, \$8) materials fee. (248) 685-7696.

**"Tea with the Fairies": Crazy Wisdom Bookstore
& Tea Room.** Crazy Wisdom staff dress up as magi-
cal fairies to sprinkle fairy dust and serve tea, petit
fours, and cookies to kids and their families. Also,
fairy stories and readings. Bring your own fairy
wings and dolls. 1 & 4 p.m., *Crazy Wisdom*, 114 S.
Main. \$10.50 (babies age 18 months & younger,
free). Preregistration required. 665-9468.

**★"Plus ça Change? The Romanian Revolution of
1989 and Its Aftermath": U-M Center for Euro-
pean Studies "Conversations on Europe."** Talk by
Princeton University public and international affairs
professor Grigore Pop-Eleches. 4-5:30 p.m., 1636
SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 647-2743.

**★"Higher Education and Economic Growth in
Michigan: Looking Back and Looking Ahead on the
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Policy. Panel discussion with Michigan lieutenant governor **John Cherry**, U-M president **Mary Sue Coleman**, Michigan Community College Association president **Michael Hansen**, and Meijer Corporation president **Mark Murray**. 4-5:30 p.m., Michigan Union Pendleton Room. Free. 647-4091.

"Holiday Specialties": Arbor Brewing Company Beer Tasting. A chance to sample and learn about some 2 dozen different spiced beers, old ales, meads, and other holiday favorites. Also, a drawing for beer-related prizes. The price of admission includes unlimited beer sampling and a German appetizer buffet. 7-9 p.m., Arbor Brewing Company, 114 E. Washington. Tickets \$25 in advance and (if available) at the door. 213-1393.

"Heart Health": People's Food Co-op. Talk by local family nurse practitioner Gaia Kile. 7 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room, 114 S. Main. Free. Preregistration required by emailing info@peoplesfood.coop or by calling 994-4589.

"The Prince, the Wolf, and the Firebird": EMU Theater Department. See 4 Friday. 7 p.m.

"Annie": Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 3 Thursday. 7 p.m.

★Upper School Orchestra and Choir Concert: Greenhills School. Program TBA. 7:30 p.m., Greenhills School Campbell Center for the Performing Arts, 850 Greenhills Dr. (off Earhart). Free. 205-4091.

★Winter Orchestra Concert: Pioneer High School. Jonathan Glawe directs the symphony orchestra, chamber orchestra, and philharmonia in works by Beethoven, Britten, Brahms, Berger, Sibelius, Prokofiev, Strauss, Tchaikovsky, Grainger, and Rimsky-Korsakov. 7:30 p.m., Pioneer High School Schreiber Auditorium, 601 W. Stadium Blvd. at Main. Free. 994-2120.

"See Rock City and Other Destinations": U-M Musical Theatre Department. Dec. 10-13. U-M musical theatre professor Cynthia Kortman Westphal directs musical theatre students in Brad Alexander and Adam Mathias's one-act musical, a series of 6 vignettes about different people yearning for something richer in their lives. 7:30 p.m., U-M Walgreen Drama Center Arthur Miller Theatre, 1226 Murfin, North Campus. Tickets \$18 & \$24 (students, \$9) at the Michigan League Box Office in advance and at the door. To charge by phone, call 764-2538.

"Macbeth": U-M Theatre Department. Dec. 10-13. U-M drama professor Phillip Kerr directs U-M drama students in one of Shakespeare's best-known and most influential tragedies, the bloody tale of a Scottish lord and his ambitious wife. 7:30 p.m., Power Center. Tickets \$18 & \$24 (students, \$9) at the Michigan League Box Office in advance and at the door. To charge by phone, call 764-2538.

"Auntie Mame": PTD Productions. Dec. 10-13 & 17-19. Local actors present Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee's adaptation of Patrick Dennis's novel about a boy growing up as the ward of his eccentric aunt. 8 p.m., Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron, Ypsilanti. Tickets \$16 (students & seniors, \$11; Thurs., pay what you can) in advance and at the door. 483-7345.

Dance and Related Arts Concert: U-M Dance Department. Dec. 10 & 11. U-M dance majors present an evening of multimedia collaborations with student and faculty composers, musicians, theatrical designers, sculptors, photographers, vocalists, and creative writers. 8 p.m. (doors open at 7 p.m.), U-M Dance Bldg. Betty Pease Studio, 1310 North University Ct. \$5 at the door only. 763-5460.

"Christmas Carol'd": Performance Network Professional Season. See 3 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Escanaba": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 2 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

Horace H.B. Sanders: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. Dec. 10-12. This Detroit native and U-M grad won the recent CBS *Star Search* Comedy Championship. His act blends fresh observational humor about everyday life with a high-energy persona and lots of improvisation. ("H.B." stands for "hilarious brother.") Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served; all Fri. & Sat. early shows are nonsmoking. 8 p.m., 314 E. Liberty (below Seva restaurant). \$7 (Thurs.) & \$10 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, \$9 (Thurs.) & \$12 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996-9080.

11 FRIDAY

"Tiny Tot Time": Leslie Science and Nature Center. A program of hikes, storytelling, songs, puppets, and crafts for kids ages 1-3 (accompanied by a caregiver). Snacks provided; dress for the outdoors. 9:30-11 a.m., LSN, 1831 Traver Rd. \$7. 997-1553.

"Little Women": Wild Swan Theater. See 10 Thursday. 10 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.

★Artist Talk: U-M Museum of Art. Talk by Heather Rowe, a New York City-based sculptor whose

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Saturday, December 12

Cookie Walk to benefit missions
Downtown, 9 am...until cookies run out!

Sunday, December 13

"The Bethlehem Inn"
Youth drama, Downtown, 6:30 pm

Thursday, December 24

Downtown Christmas Eve Services
5 pm Children's Service
7 pm Family Service
9 pm Communion Service
11 pm Candlelight Service
\$2 parking at Liberty Sq. Garage
before 6:30 pm; free after 6:30 pm
Green Wood Christmas Eve Service
5 pm Candlelight Family Service



Downtown: 120 S. State St. at Huron
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installation work explores architectural fragmentation, structural dysfunction, and material inversion. Rowe's work is on display at UMMA through Jan. 3. 5:30 p.m., UMMA Helmut Stern Auditorium, 525 S. State. Free. 764-0395.

★**"The Rock People": Heavenly Metal.** Local artist Kate Lazuka reads from and discusses this children's book that she illustrated, Sue Valiquett's story of a little girl who discovers healing spirits that live in rocks. 6:30 p.m., Heavenly Metal, 207 E. Ann St. Free. 663-4247.

★**"Poetry Night in Ann Arbor": Neutral Zone.** Poetry readings by National Slam champion poet Roger Bonair-Agard, Chicago hip-hop poet Kevin Coval, local poet Lauren Whitehead, and local teen poets from Ann Arbor Wordworks and the VOLUME Poetry Project. 7 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Tickets \$10 (students, \$5) in advance; \$12 (students, \$7) at the door, 223-7443.

★**Crazy Wisdom Reading Circle: Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room.** All invited to join a discussion of William McDonough and Michael Braungart's *Cradle to Cradle: Remaking the Way We Make Things Work*. 7-9:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665-2757.

★**"A Boychoir Christmas": Boychoir of Ann Arbor.** Dec. 11 & 12 (different locations). Boychoir founder Tom Strode directs this local ensemble of boys ages 9-17 in its 23rd annual Christmas concert. The program opens with the processional "Once in royal David's city," with the 1st verse sung by a solo boy, and concludes with John Gardner's "Tomorrow shall be my dancing day." The program also includes a variety of carols, each featuring a solo part showcasing some of the choir's talented boy sopranos, including Alan Bullard's energetic "Glory to the Christ Child," Rutter's popular "Shepherd's Pipe Carol," and Charpentier's French Baroque carol "Salve puerile." The Boychoir's Preparatory Choir for boys ages 7-10 also performs the Boychoir's popular arrangement of "Gaudete." Audience sing-alongs of "Hark! The herald angels sing" and "O come, all ye faithful" are kicked off with a soaring Boychoir descant verse. This popular annual concert usually draws a full house, so get your tickets in advance. 7 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 300 N. Washington, Ypsilanti. Tickets \$15 (students & seniors, \$10; youths 17 & under, \$5) in advance at aabochoir.org and at the door. 663-5377.

★**"Festive Friday Holiday Nights": Main Street Area Association.** Dec. 11 & 18. Local entertainers stroll the sidewalks beneath trees twinkling with 100,000 Christmas lights, with many stores open late. Tonight: U-M student a cappella ensemble **Compulsive Lyres**, Elvis tribute artist **Chris Solano**, the **Arbor Consort** madrigal chorus, and swordplay stunts by **Ring of Steel**. 7-9 p.m., downtown area bounded by Main, Liberty, Washington, and Fourth Ave. Free. 668-7112.

Groove: U-M University Activities Center. High-energy U-M student percussion and dance ensemble featuring traditional and nontraditional instruments (trash cans, propane tanks, toothbrushes, and more). Opening act is the local funk dance band **Groove Spoon** (not to be confused with the mid-90s Lansing funk band of the same name). 7 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets \$8 (students, \$5) in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and Ticketmaster.com, and at the door. 763-TKTS.

★**"The Prince, the Wolf, and the Firebird": EMU Theater Department.** See 4 Friday. 7 p.m.

Team USA Under-17 vs. Youngstown Phantoms. Dec. 11 & 12. The Ann Arbor-based USA Hockey national development team plays this U.S. Hockey League rival. Team USA Under-18 also has USHL matches this month against Cedar Rapids Rough Riders (Dec. 18, 7 p.m.) and Youngstown Phantoms (Dec. 19, 7 p.m.). 7 p.m. (Dec. 11) & 4 p.m. (Dec. 12), Ann Arbor Ice Cube, 2121 Oak Valley Dr. at Scio Church Rd. \$12 (seniors, students, & children, \$6; kids under 5, free). 327-9251.

★**"Luau Skate": Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation.** All invited to skate to Hawaiian music. Prizes for best Hawaiian costume. 7:15-8:45 p.m., Veterans Ice Arena, 2150 Jackson Rd. \$6 (youths age 17 & under and seniors age 60 & over, \$5). \$1 discount for city residents. Skate rentals available (\$3). 761-7240.

U-M Ice Hockey vs. Notre Dame. 7:30 p.m., Yost Ice Arena, 1016 S. State at McKinley. \$19-\$25. 764-0247.

Davy Rothbart: Ann Arbor Civic Theatre Fund-Raiser. A one-man spoken-word concert by this *FOUND* magazine creator (and Ann Arbor native), a frequent contributor to NPR's *This American Life*, whose material comes from interesting found letters and notes. The late show is open to students only. 7:30 & 10 p.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets \$20 (7:30 p.m.) & \$10 (10 p.m.) in advance and at the door. 971-2228.

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GOOD NEWS FOR BAD BACKS

Home remedies for back & neck pain? Get it straight from the experts.

Have random attacks of back or neck pain? Are you popping pills to cope with spasms or radiating pain? It's only natural to stop moving with an attack of back pain. But in fact, movement is like lubricant for your spine. One of the best steps to recovery from simple back pain can be a 20-minute walk.

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Other special spine exercises, like the one shown, can strengthen your core and make your back more flexible, stronger and resistant to injury and future strain. But how would you know this? You could visit our online spine encyclopedia at www.AnnArborSpineCenter.com. Or you could call us for our 36-page Home Remedy Book. As a community service we provide it to those in



the Ann Arbor area for free. It's helped thousands of people recover from back and neck pain symptoms. As a regional spine center, Ann Arbor Spine Center is referred some of the most complex cases of back pain from across the region. Ann Arbor Spine Center was also one of the

first physician groups in the nation to combine fellowship-trained orthopedic spine surgeons with neurological spine surgeons — the best possible approach for patient care.

If your back or neck problem is keeping you from work or play, we may be in a position to help. Call us. We'll talk back.



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"Merlin": Young Actors Guild. Dec. 11-13. Young local actors present Sue Roe's adaptation of the traditional story of the wizard in the Arthurian legend. 7:30 p.m., Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, 911 North University. \$15 (students through high school, \$10). 913-9800.

***"Angels in America": U-M Residential College Drama Concentration.** U-M drama lecturer Kate Mendeloff directs RC students in scenes from Tony Kushner's Pulitzer Prize-winning trilogy. Subtitled "a gay fantasia on national themes," it's an ambitious, sprawling, fantastic spectacle examining Reagan-era politics, religion, the AIDS epidemic, and the timeless questions of love, courage, and death. The drama centers on one HIV-positive man, his friends and loved ones, and the various presences who haunt him, including angelic messengers and the ghost of Ethel Rosenberg. 7:30 p.m., RC Keene Auditorium, East Quad, 701 East University. Free. 647-4354.

***Chamber Choir and University Choir: EMU Music Department.** These 2 music student ensembles present "Adoration and Praise II," a selection of fragments of the Mass representing a variety of cultures and styles. Also, the EMU choirs are joined by the Plymouth-Canton High School choir for some gospel songs and spirituals. 8 p.m., Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Free. 487-2255.

***Berlioz's Requiem: U-M School of Music.** Kenneth Keisler conducts the U-M University Symphony Orchestra, Chamber Choir, and University Choir in this Everest of requiems, seldom mounted because of the colossal range of musicians required. Arguably the most expressive of requiems, the work's vast emotional range encompasses hope, humility, and agony. The work proved so overwhelming at its 1837 Paris debut that 25 choir members fainted or had a nervous breakdown. 8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 764-0594.

"Michiganoise": Canterbury House. Performances by Michigan noise and experimental musicians, including the duo of percussionist Ben Hall and reed player John Olson, tape and electronics musician Charlie Draheim, violinist and electronics/tape manipulator Dog Lady, and Lifetones, the duo of jazz pianist Matt Endahl and guitarist Chris Riggs. 8 p.m., Canterbury House, 721 E. Huron. \$5. 761-3162.

Katie Geddes & Friends: Green Wood Coffee House Series (First United Methodist Church). An evening of acoustic music hosted by Geddes, a local folksinger who sings in a clear, strong voice. The lineup: Matt Watroba's Jukebox Folk Quartet is an acoustic quartet led by Detroit folksinger-guitarist Watroba (with Geddes, multi-instrumental string player David Mosher, and bassist Bud Michael) that plays classic country songs by everyone from the Louvin Brothers and the Delmore Brothers to Hank Williams and Roger Miller. All about Eve (Geddes, Deb Wood, and Debra Gerber) is a vocal trio that specializes in close-harmony pop, folk, and gospel tunes, some performed a cappella and some accompanied on guitar or piano. 8 p.m., FUMC Green Wood Church, 1001 Green Rd. at Glazier Way. \$15 (kids 10 & under, 2 for the price of 1) in advance and at the door. 662-4536, 665-8558.

"Dance and Related Arts Concert": U-M Dance Department. See 10 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"See Rock City and Other Destinations": U-M Musical Theatre Department. See 10 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Annie": Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 3 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"If Only in My Dreams": Blackbird Theatre. See 4 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Auntie Mame": PTD Productions. See 10 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Christmas Carol'd": Performance Network Professional Season. See 3 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Escanaba": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 2 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

"Impossible Marriage": Ann Arbor Civic Theatre. See 4 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Macbeth": U-M Theatre Department. See 10 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Horace H.B. Sanders: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 10 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

12 SATURDAY

***Ecosystem Restoration Workday: U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum.** Dec. 12 & 19. All invited to help Matthaei staff members remove invasive plants. Dress for outdoor work. Snacks and tools provided, or bring your own. 9 a.m.-noon, meet at the Arb Reader Center (Dec. 12), 1610 Washington Hts. & Matthaei (Dec. 19), 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. Registration requested. 647-7600.

Huron Gun Collectors. About 100 dealers and collectors offer guns, knives, ammunition, and other hunting equipment, including antiques and collect-

ibles. Concessions. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. (Sat.) & 9 a.m.-3 p.m. (Sun.), Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd., Saline. Admission \$4. (517) 605-0624.

"16th Annual Cookie Walk": First United Methodist Church Fund-Raiser. 9 a.m. until sold out, FUMC, 120 S. State at Huron. Free admission. 662-4536.

Annual Holiday Book Shop: Friends of the Ann Arbor District Library. Dec. 12 & 13. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., AADL lower level, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free admission. 302-7774.

"Holiday Greens": Ann Arbor Garden Club. Club members help participants make a take-home wreath. Bring a vase if you wish to create an arrangement instead. Followed by a potluck. 10 a.m.-noon, Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. \$15 materials fee. Reservations required. 665-7072.

***"Paper Making": Ann Arbor Solid Waste Department.** All invited to make a colorful sheet of recycled paper using torn paper, water, and everyday household supplies. Also, display of "tree-free" papers. Followed by guided tours of the city's recycling and trash processing center. 10 a.m.-noon, Materials Recovery Facility, 4120 Platt Rd. Free. 994-2807.

***"Hickory Hills Trail": Huron Valley Sierra Club.** Club member Ewa Roszczenko leads a 6-mile hike. Bring water and a snack. 10:45 a.m., Eddy Discovery Center, Waterloo Recreation Area, Bush Rd. (west from Pierce Rd. off I-94 exit 157), Chelsea. Free. \$6 vehicle entry fee. 756-5362.

"Healing Arts Craft Bazaar": Naturopathic Women's Health Care. 11 a.m.-5 p.m., 220 N. Fifth Ave. Free admission. 769-4981.

4th Annual Holiday Studio Sale. Dec. 12 & 13. Noon-5 p.m., 627 Gott St. (off Miller). Free admission. 327-3727.

***"Trains in Toyland": Washtenaw County Historical Society.** Dec. 12, 20, & 26. Ann Arbor Model Railroad Club members answer questions and demonstrate model trains. Also, Firefly the Clown does magic tricks (Dec. 12, 1-3 p.m.), and he's back at the museum by himself to reprise his show on Dec. 13, 1-3 p.m. Noon-4 p.m., Museum on Main St., 500 N. Main. Free. 662-9092.

"Christmas on the Farm": Saline Area Historical Society. Dec. 12 & 13. A re-creation of a Depression-era Christmas. Refreshments. Noon-5 p.m. (Dec. 12) & 1-4 p.m. (Dec. 13), Rentschler Farm Museum, 1265 E. Michigan, Saline. Donation. 769-2219.

"Solstice Celebration": U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens. Kids ages 6-12 invited to make popcorn-cranberry garlands, pine-cone bird feeders, snowflakes, and more. 1-4 p.m., Matthaei, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. \$5 materials fee. Preregistration required. 647-7600.

***"Wrap It Up": Ann Arbor District Library.** All kids in grades 4 & up and adults invited to make their own holiday wrapping paper and tags. Supplies provided. 1-2:30 p.m., AADL Traverwood Branch, 3333 Traverwood at Huron Pkwy. Free. 327-4200.

***"A Country Called Amreeka: Arab Roots, American Stories": Ann Arbor District Library.** Syrian American civil rights attorney Alia Malek discusses her new book about Arab Americans. Signing. 1-2:30 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. Free. 327-4200.

***Loren Estleman: Aunt Agatha's.** This award-winning local author of more than 50 crime novels and westerns discusses his new mystery *Alone*, the 2nd in his series about a Hollywood film detective, who this time tries to solve the murder of a man who was using an intimate letter from Greta Garbo for blackmail. Signing. 1:30 p.m., Aunt Agatha's, 213 S. Fourth Ave. Free. 769-1114.

***"The Image Wrought: Historical Photographic Approaches in the Digital Age": U-M Museum of Art.** Docent-led tour of the current exhibit. 2 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State. Free. 764-0395.

***"Discovering God in Science": Barnes & Noble.** Inventor and industrial design consultant Charles E. Steele discusses his new book. 2 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973-1618.

"Little Women": Wild Swan Theater. See 10 Thursday. 2 p.m.

45th Annual Community "Messiah" Sing. All interested people capable of reading and performing the vocal parts are invited to join this friendly, informal, unrehearsed performance of Handel's beloved oratorio. Between 150 and 200 singers usually participate, including professionals, semiprofessionals, serious amateurs, families, and church choirs. A volunteer orchestra of 35 to 45 instrumentalists is also needed; prospective players should call the number below as soon as possible to ensure section balance. Directed by Richard Ingram. Scores provided, or participants may bring their own. (The Prout edition, published by Schirmer, is used.) Orchestra players should bring

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&
December 8th
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their own stands and be ready for a warm-up at 2:15 p.m. Cider, water, and hot tea provided; bring goodies to share. 2:30 p.m., St. Clare Episcopal Church, 2309 Packard. Small donation requested. Prospective orchestra members should contact Meg Gower at megower@umich.edu or 433-0150.

★“Youth Orchestra Concert”: Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts. The school's Junior String Orchestra, Sterling String Orchestra, and Youth Symphony Orchestra play seasonal favorites and other works TBA. 3 p.m., Greenhills School, 850 Greenhills Dr. (off Earhart). Free. 213-2000.

★“A Boychoir Christmas”: Boychoir of Ann Arbor. See 11 Friday. 3 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw.

★“The Prince, the Wolf, and the Firebird”: EMU Theater Department. See 4 Friday. 3 p.m.

★Early Music Ensemble: U-M School of Music. Edward Parmentier directs this music student ensemble in works by de West, Byrd, Couperin, Frescobaldi, Lawes, Telemann, Bach, Leclair, and others. 4 p.m., U-M Music School Blanche Anderson Moore Recital Hall, 1100 Baitz Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764-0594.

★“Sing Along with Santa”: Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra. (See review, p. 51.) This popular annual family concert features a carol sing-along led by former orchestra staff member Charley Sullivan as Santa. Also, Puerto Rican Christmas music by Reynaldo and Alicia Reyes. Local radio personality Lucy Ann Lance emcees. Followed by cookies, apple cider, and photos with Santa. 4 p.m., Bethlehem United Church of Christ, 423 S. Fourth Ave. Tickets \$15 (children 12 & under, \$6; families, \$35; patrons, \$50) in advance at the AASO office (220 E. Huron suite 470) and a2so.com, and (if available) at the door. 994-4801.

★University Lowbrow Astronomers. Dec. 12 & 19. A chance to join local astronomy buffs for a look at the sky through Peach Mountain Observatory's huge, 24-inch McMath telescope and other instruments. Participants encouraged to bring their own telescopes. Visitors must turn off all electronic equipment (car radios, transmitters, phones, etc.) at the observatory entrance. Program canceled if sky is overcast at sunset or if the weather is extremely inclement. 5 p.m.–12:30 a.m. or as long as the sky remains clear, Peach Mountain Observatory, North Territorial Rd. (about 1/4 miles west of Hudson Mills Metropark), Dexter. Free. 332-9132.

★“Mexican Fiesta”: El Cafe Que Dan. Mexican hors d'oeuvres (5:30 p.m.) and dinner (6 p.m.) followed by salsa dancing. Also, entertainment by mariachi bands and Livonia singer Lucio Romero. Proceeds benefit needy families at Spiritus Sanctus Academy. 5:30 p.m., Spiritus Sanctus Academy, 4101 E. Joy Rd., just west of Earhart. \$65 (couples, \$115). Reservations requested. 444-9681.

★“Annual Holiday Kirtan”: Ann Arbor Kirtan. All invited to join a group performance of this traditional devotional call-and-response music based on Hindu Vaishnava texts and the writings of poet/saints. Accompanied by live music based on rhythmic Indian ragas on bass guitar, tabla, and drums. The program begins with a social hour (bring a healthy snack or dessert to share). Tea is served. 6:30–9:30 p.m., Friends Meetinghouse, 1420 Hill St. Free, but donations accepted. 761-7435.

★Maize 'n' Blue Intrasquad: U-M Men's & Women's Gymnastics. The U-M men's gymnastics team, which finished 2nd in the NCAA championships last year, and women's team, which won the Big 10 last year, prepare for the 2009–2010 season with an intrasquad meet. 7 p.m., Cliff Keen Arena, S. State at Hoover. Free. 764-0247.

★Annual Fall Concert: U-M Gospel Chorus. Gospel music by this coed a cappella ensemble, plus dance by the Images of Praise dance team. Also, a performance by the Taking Refuge Uttering Spoken Truth (TRUST) poetry team, and other performances TBA. 7 p.m., New Life Church, 1541 Washtenaw. Free. mgc-eboard@umich.edu.

Vivo Sinfonietta: University Lutheran Chapel. Brett Luginbill conducts this local chamber ensemble in a program of classical Christmas music. 7 p.m., University Lutheran Chapel, 1511 Washtenaw. \$15 (students, \$5). 971-0550, 327-6914.

★“Muerta Goes to Space Prison”: Dreamland Theater. Dec. 12 & 19. The Dreamland puppet troupe presents Chris Sardon's multimedia futuristic puppet show about a daytime TV host named Muerta Spewart who has difficulties broadcasting her Holy Day Special from a prison cell in outer space. For mature audiences. 7 p.m., Dreamland Theater, 26 N. Washington, Ypsilanti. \$10. 657-2337.

★“Uncle Vanya”: U-M Residential College Drama Concentration. U-M drama lecturer Kate Mendeloff directs RC students in scenes from this Chekhovian masterpiece, a richly varied ensemble piece about the search for happiness—from love, achievement, or nature—at various stages of life. 7:30 p.m.,

RC Keene Auditorium, East Quad, 701 East University. Free. 647-4354.

★“Merlin”: Young Actors Guild. See 11 Friday. 2 & 7:30 p.m.

★“The Grand Reunion Ball”: Grand Traditions Vintage Dance Academy. American, English, Scottish, Scandinavian, and central European vintage dancing to live music by Childgrove. 19th-century attire encouraged. Preceded at 11:30 a.m.–3 p.m. by workshops. 7:45–11 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. (just south of Oak Valley Dr.), Saline. \$25 (includes workshops) in advance at vintagedance.com and by phone; \$30 at the door. 769-0041.

Ballroom Dancing Night: Pittsfield Township Parks and Recreation Department. Ballroom dancing to recorded music from the last several decades. Singles and couples invited. Refreshments. Preceded at 7 p.m. by a lesson. 8–10:30 p.m., Pittsfield Twp. Recreation Hall, S. State at Ellsworth. \$5. 822-2120.

2nd Saturday Contra Dance. Don Theyken calls to music by the Sharon Hollow String Band. No partner needed. Beginners welcome. 8 p.m., Webster Community Hall, 5665 Webster Church Rd. between Joy and North Territorial, Dexter. \$8. 996-8359.

Amazin' Blue: U-M University Activities Center. The oldest U-M coed a cappella ensemble performs a mix of jazz, pop, and country songs. 8 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. \$12 (students & kids, \$7) in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office, and at the door. 763-TKTS.

★“Peace, Love, and Gimble”: U-M Gimble. This coed a cappella ensemble performs arrangements of Bon Iver's “Woods,” Tally Hall's “Greener,” Radiohead's “Fake Plastic Trees,” “I Heard It Through the Grapevine,” and more. 8 p.m., Angell Hall Auditorium A. \$5 in advance by emailing gimble@umich.edu; \$8 at the door. umich.edu/~gimble

Jean-Yves Thibaudet: University Musical Society. Celebrated French pianist known for nuanced, emotionally cool, and luminously colored interpretations. “There's a lightness, a crystalline sparkle and sheer zest about these performances that makes them bubble like chilled champagne,” says a BBC reviewer of one of his CDs. Program: Brahms' Sonata no. 3 in F Minor and Ravel's Pavane pour une Enfante Defunte and Miroirs. 8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Tickets \$10–\$56 in advance at the Michigan League Box Office & ums.org, and (if available) at the door. To charge by phone, call 764-2538 or (800) 221-1229.

Adam Unsworth Jazz Ensemble: Kerrytown Concert House. U-M horn professor Unsworth leads his ensemble in holiday jazz tunes. 8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. \$15 (students, \$5). Reservations recommended. 769-2999.

★“Folkmania”: Canterbury House. Double bill. Jen Sygit & Sam Corbin, the duo of young Michigan singer-songwriter-guitarist Sygit and Lansing pop-folk singer-songwriter Corbin. Russell Brakefield & Mark Lavengood, the west Michigan acoustic duo of poet-banjoist Brakefield and multi-instrumentalist Lavengood. 8 p.m., Canterbury House, 721 E. Huron. \$10 (students, \$5). 761-3162.

Billy King: Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth Cafe 704 Coffeehouse. Local singer-songwriter and guitarist whose music blends folk, pop, bluegrass, swing, and rock. 8–10 p.m., Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, 704 Airport Blvd. Donation. 327-0270.

★“Christmas Carol'd”: Performance Network Professional Season. See 3 Thursday. 3 & 8 p.m.

★“Escanaba”: Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 2 Wednesday. 3 & 8 p.m.

★“See Rock City and Other Destinations”: U-M Musical Theatre Department. See 10 Thursday. 5 & 8 p.m.

★“Annie”: Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 3 Thursday. 8 p.m.

★“Auntie Mame”: PTD Productions. See 10 Thursday. 8 p.m.

★“If Only in My Dreams”: Blackbird Theatre. See 4 Friday. 8 p.m.

★“Impossible Marriage”: Ann Arbor Civic Theatre. See 4 Friday. 8 & 10 p.m.

Horace H.B. Sanders: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 10 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

★“Exploring the Night Sky Meteor Watch!”: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission. A chance to learn about constellations and watch for yellowish Geminid meteors. Hot drinks and a campfire. Canceled if cloudy. 9–11 p.m., Independence Lake County Park Beach Center, 3200 Jennings (north off North Territorial), Webster Twp. Free. 971-6337.

13 SUNDAY

★“Full English Tea Service”: TeaHaus. Dec. 13 & 20. A traditional English tea with scones, finger sandwiches, sweets, and tea. Also, a TeaHaus staffer gives a brief history of English tea traditions. Pro-

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ceeds from the Dec. 13 event benefit the Kidz in Need scholarship fund. 10 a.m. and 1 & 4 p.m., *Cake Nouveau*, 206 N. Fourth Ave. \$36 (\$70 per twosome) on Dec. 13 & \$26 (\$50 per twosome) on Dec. 20. Reservations required. 622-0460.

***Hanukkah Party:** Ann Arbor Jewish Cultural Society. Family-oriented program featuring a Hanukkah play and secular observance, singing, craft activities, and games. All invited. 10 a.m.-noon, Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 975-9872.

"Santa Central": Hudson Mills Metropark Interpretive Nature Programs. Kids invited to visit with Santa, play reindeer games, and enjoy a hayride. Snack. 10 a.m. and 12:30 & 2 p.m., Hudson Mills Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd., Dexter. \$2. Preregistration required. \$4 vehicle entrance fee. 426-8211.

10th Annual Holiday Show: Art in the Barn. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., The Yellow Barn, 416 W. Huron. Free admission. 834-2488.

Alternative Holiday Bazaar: Memorial Christian Church. Noon-2:30 p.m., 730 Tappan at Hill. Free admission. 455-7157.

"Holiday Figure Skating Exhibition": Ann Arbor Figure Skating Club. AAFSC members of various ages and skating levels present solo, duo, and ensemble performances. Also, a performance by the AAFSC Hockette synchronized skating team. Noon-2 p.m., Ann Arbor Ice Cube, 2121 Oak Valley Dr. at Scio Church Rd. Cash or canned food donation. 213-6768.

***"Chesstastic!":** Ann Arbor District Library. All kids and adults invited to play chess. Sets provided. 1-4 p.m., AADL Traverwood Branch, 3333 Traverwood at Huron Pkwy. Free. 327-4200.

"Annual Champagne Brunch": Ann Arbor Tasters Guild. Brunch and tastings of over 50 champagnes and sparkling wines. 1 p.m., Eve, Kerrytown. \$55-\$62.50. Reservations required. 995-1818.

"Holiday Dinner & Auction": Ann Arbor Companion Bird Club. Auction of bird toys and various non-bird items. Pay for your own meal. Bring your bird, if you like. 1-3:30 p.m., Sidetrack Café, Ypsilanti. Free admission. 662-4582.

***"Jazz Combo Showcase":** Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts. Student jazz ensembles perform a family-friendly program TBA. 1-3 p.m., location TBA at aa-spa.org. Free. 213-2000.

***34th Annual Christmas Sing:** Western Kiwanis Club of Ann Arbor/Ann Arbor North Rotary Club/Notre Dame Club of Ann Arbor. More than 500 people usually attend this family-oriented event. Kiwanis members Jeff Crause, Charlie Phibbs, Mike Fedel, and Tony Fahmie lead the audience in a sing-along of favorite Christmas carols. Organ accompanist is Andrew Rogers. Also, a visit from Santa and guest performances by local song-and-dance team of young twins Ariel & Zoey and by Miss Washtenaw County. Emcee is local radio personality Lucy Ann Lance. Free cider & donuts from the Washtenaw Dairy. 1:30 p.m., Michigan Theater. Free. 668-8397.

***"Felt Ball Fun":** Ann Arbor District Library. All kids (grade K & up) and adults invited to make and play with a felt ball. Materials provided. 2-4:30 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. Free. 327-4200.

***"Journey to the West: China Celebration":** Ann Arbor District Library. All kids in grades K-8 (accompanied by adults) invited to get their faces painted Chinese Opera-style and to view several short films based on the classical Chinese novel *Journey to the West* and the ancient Chinese legend *Lady White Snake*, both Buddhist stories of magical transformation. 2-4 p.m., AADL meeting room (4th floor), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-4555.

Advanced English Dance: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. With live music. For experienced dancers. 2 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. (just south of Oak Valley Dr.). \$10. (248) 288-4737.

***Shape Note Singing:** Ann Arbor Sacred Harp. All invited to join an afternoon of shape note, or sacred harp, singing, a form of communal hymn singing that has its roots in colonial America. Songbooks available, but singers encouraged to bring their own. 2-5 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Free, but donations accepted for music scholarships. 678-7549, 761-1451.

***Friends of Four-Hand Piano.** Pianists of all abilities invited to bring their music for a casual afternoon of performing duets. An opportunity to meet other pianists and find partners for 4-hand and 2-piano music. Listeners welcome. 2 p.m., location TBA. Free. 971-6261, 485-5007.

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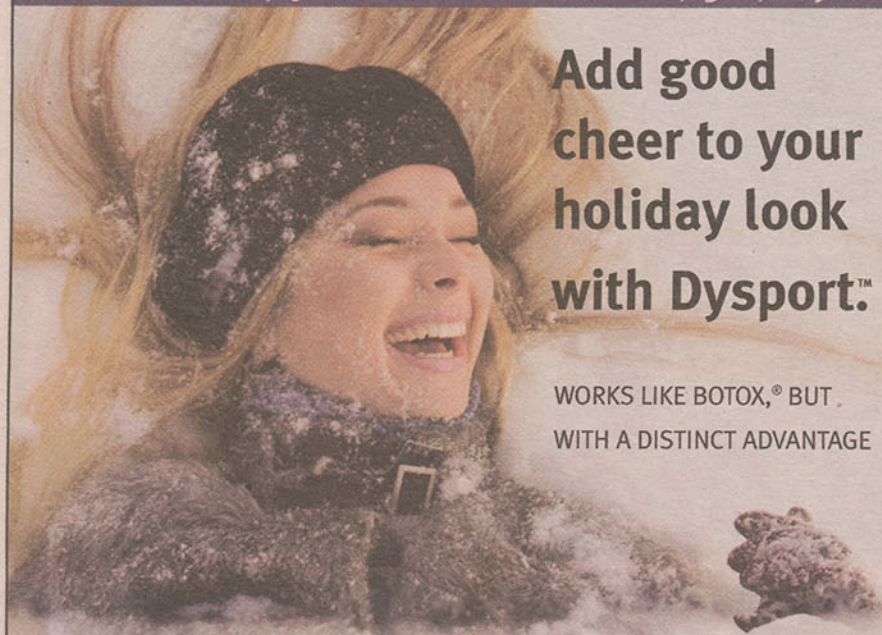
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music and a dance lesson. Refreshments. 2-5 p.m., Forsythe Middle School, 1655 Newport Rd. at Sunset. Donation of a nonperishable food item for Food Gatherers. 222-6246.

"The Nutcracker": Dance Alliance. Lisa Darby Clark directs local dancers and members of Jazz Dance Theater in a production of Tchaikovsky's ballet. 2 & 7 p.m., Ellen Ewing Performing Arts Center, Saline High School, 1300 Campus Pkwy., Saline. Tickets \$13 in advance at the Dancer's Boutique (2414 E. Stadium) & Dance Alliance (811 W. Michigan in Saline), and at the door. 429-9599.

"Merlin": Young Actors Guild. See 11 Friday. 2 p.m.

"Little Women": Wild Swan Theater. See 10 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Escanaba": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 2 Wednesday. 2 p.m.

"Auntie Mame": PTD Productions. See 10 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Macbeth": U-M Theatre Department. See 10 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Christmas Carol'd": Performance Network Professional Season. See 3 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"See Rock City and Other Destinations": U-M Musical Theatre Department. See 10 Thursday. 2 & 5 p.m.

"Annie": Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 3 Thursday. 3 p.m.

"If Only in My Dreams": Blackbird Theatre. See 4 Friday. 3 p.m.

"The Music of Harold Rome": Chaverim B'Shirim. This local Jewish choir performs songs from *Call Me Mister* and other Rome musicals. Refreshments. 3 p.m., Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). \$5 donation. 971-0990.

"The Winter Rose": St. Thomas Catholic Church. Lucia Campbell directs the St. Thomas choir in Joseph Martin's Christmas cantata. Accompanist is Timothy Tikker. 3 p.m., St. Thomas, Kingsley at N. State. Free. 761-8606.

"Holiday Concert": Dexter Community Band. Bill Gourley directs this 85-member volunteer ensemble in a program of traditional holiday music featuring Claude T. Smith's *A Rhapsody of Christmas Carols*, R.A. Bass's arrangement of *'Twas the Night Before Christmas* narrated by former Dexter Schools superintendent (and state legislator) John Hansen, and other Christmas music. Also, a Christmas sing-along. Refreshments. 3 p.m., Dexter Center for the Performing Arts, Dexter High School, 2200 N. Parker, Dexter. Free. 426-2734.

"A Puppet History of Ypsilanti": Dreamland Theater. See 6 Sunday. 3:30 p.m.

Christmas Concert: First Presbyterian Church. Susan Boggs directs the church's chancel choir, orchestra, and a tenor soloist in Britten's *Saint Nicholas*. Also, music by Willcocks, Rutter, Lauridsen, and Palestrina. 4 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. Donation. 662-4466.

"Booked for Murder Mystery Book Club: Nicola's Books. All invited to discuss 2 novels set at Christmas. Martha Grimes' *Jerusalem Inn* is about a Scotland Yard superintendent and his sidekick who find clues on 2 corpses that lead them to the same remote country pub. *Shakespeare's Christmas* is the 3rd novel in Charlaire Harris's series about a 31-year-old cleaning lady from the fictitious Shakespeare, Arkansas, who this time solves a kidnapping. 4:30 p.m., Nicola's Books, Westgate shopping center. Free. 769-2149.

"Christmas Party: Rainbow Book Club. All invited to discuss *Drama Queens!*, Frank Anthony Polito's coming-of-age novel set in 1987 Michigan about a gay teenager who dreams of becoming a famous actor. Followed by a potluck dinner (bring a dish to pass and your own drink) and a book exchange (bring a wrapped book if you want to participate). 4:30 p.m., call for location. Free. 763-4168.

"Music for Contemplation Series, Advent 2009: St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. See 6 Sunday. Today: Pamela Ruiter-Feenstra. 7:15 p.m.

"The Winter Rose": Northside Community Church. Sheree Clark and Ellen Hagel direct the church's chancel choir and bell choirs in a festive performance of Joseph Martin's Christmas cantata. Narration by mayor John Hieftje and piano accompaniment by his wife, Kathryn Goodson. Also, other sacred Christmas music TBA. 7:30 p.m., Northside Community Church, 929 Barton Dr. Free. 662-6351.

14 MONDAY

"Show and Tell": Ann Arbor Area Civil War Round Table. Club members show and briefly discuss various Civil War-related items, including diaries, photographs, weapons, uniforms, paintings, and more. Previous highlights have included a set of very

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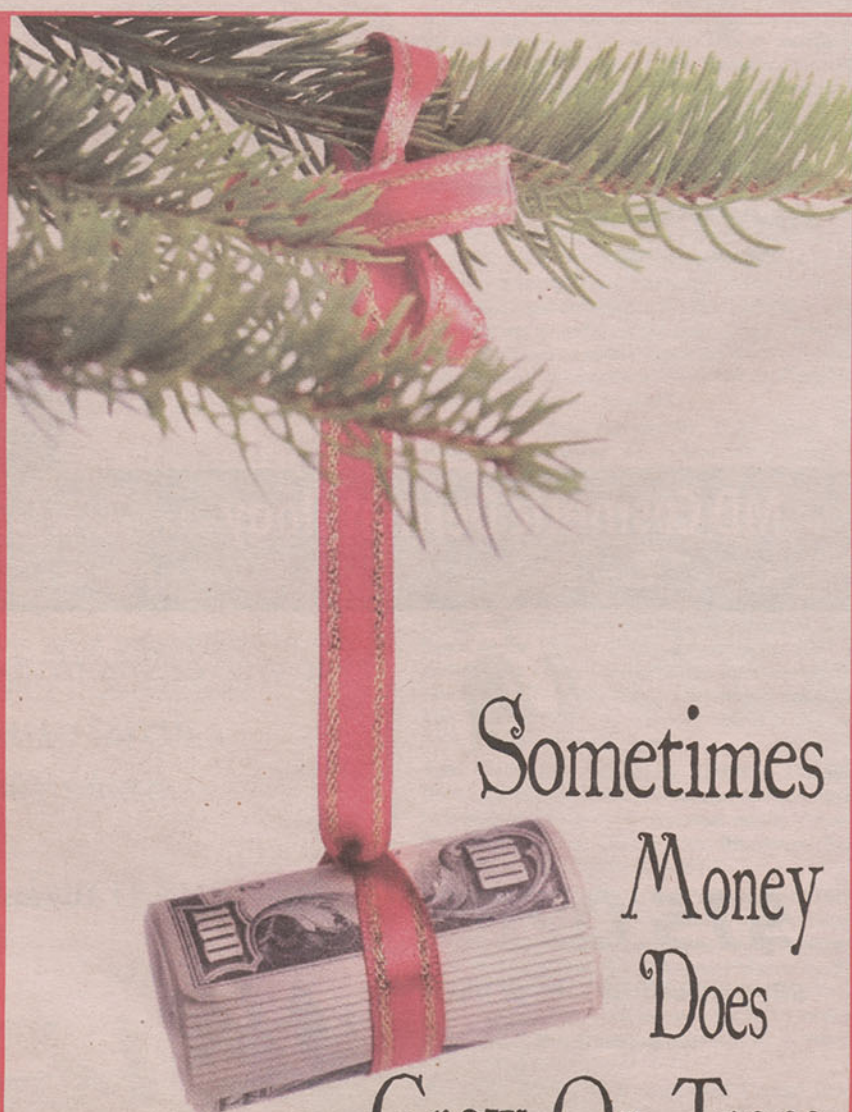


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Even the most curmudgeonly among us has to admit Ann Arborites are insanely lucky when it comes to classical music. Not only do we have more classical music performances per capita than any other city in Michigan, but we have more better classical music performances per capita than, well, any other city imaginable. What other town our size can claim to have had the best orchestra in the world—the Berliner Philharmoniker—appear here one month and the best band in the land—the Eastman Wind Ensemble—perform on the same stage exactly one month later?

Two things make the Eastman Wind Ensemble the best. First, the EWE was the first to join winds, brass, and percussion for the purpose of playing band pieces (Sousa, for example), amazing transcriptions (Scheidt, say), and newly commissioned works (Schwantner, anyone?). Founded by Frederick Fennell in 1951 at Rochester's Eastman School of Music, the EWE virtually created the standard band repertoire, and in the decades since, more than 20,000 bands have been founded in their sonic image in high schools, colleges, universities and music conservatories across the country.

But even the best of their aural offspring—the North Texas Wind Symphony from North Texas University—cannot match the Eastman. As Fennell passed the baton to Donald Hunsberger and Hunsberger in turn

passed it to Mark Davis Scatterday, so the faculty and students of the Eastman School have passed on the secrets of their smooth tone and seamless ensemble, their polished technique and poised sense of rhythm, and almost sixty years later the EWE is still instantly recognizable as the super-virtuoso band Fennell founded.

Perhaps even more amazingly, its appearance at Hill Auditorium on December 17 will be the Eastman Wind Ensemble's first in town. Heretofore, local band lovers had to get their fix with recordings—Fennell's fabulous twenty-four for Mercury and Hunsberger's superlative series for Sony. Who among us who's experienced Fennell and the EWE wailing on Sousa's "Solid Men to the Front" could ever forget it? And was anything ever so lovely as Wynton Marsalis' ineffable trumpet floating serenely above Hunsberger and the EWE's softly undulating sonorities in Copland's *Quiet City*?

Hunsberger, now the EWE's Conductor Emeritus, will be appearing for just one of five numbers at the December concert, his own transcription of Debussy's *Homage to Rameau*. Three of the remaining pieces will be led by Scatterday: his arrangements of the rambunctious Tumbao from Roberto Sierra's "La Salsa" Symphony and Andrea Gabrieli's brilliant *Aria della Battaglia* as well as David Maslanka's exuberant Wind Symphony no. 4. The fifth piece, Jeff Tyzik's *Riffs*, features Eastman faculty member Michael Burritt beating and battering all manner of percussion instruments.

—James Leonard

rare engraved slave tags and a stirring performance of period songs. Also, a Christmas party. 7 p.m., St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center, 5305 Elliott Dr. (off Huron River Dr.). Free. 750-2741.

★**University Philharmonia Orchestra: U-M School of Music.** Christopher James Lees directs this music student ensemble in Milhaud's satirically colorful ballet *Le Boeuf sur le Toit*, Tchaikovsky's Suite from *The Nutcracker*, and Messiaen's *L'Ascension*. 8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 764-0594.

15 TUESDAY

★**"Free Market Madness: Why Human Nature Is at Odds with Economics—and Why It Matters": U-M Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Distinguished Lecture Series.** Lecture by U-M Center for Behavioral and Decision Sciences in Medicine director Peter Ubel. Third in a series of 9 monthly lectures. 10:30–11:30 a.m., Best Western Executive Conference Center, 2900 Jackson Rd. \$50 (members, \$35) for the 9-lecture series. Memberships are \$20 a year. Preregistration required. 998-9351.

★**"Rethinking European Urbanism for the 21st Century": U-M Center for European Studies.** Panel discussion with TU Delft (Netherlands) urban compositions professor Henco Bekkering, U-M urbanism professor Scott Campbell, and U-M architecture professor Lydia Soo. Noon–1:30 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 647-2743.

★**"Annual Holiday Dinner & Raffle": American Business Women's Association.** Also, Christmas carols. 6:30 p.m., Weber's Inn, 3050 Jackson Rd.

\$19 (includes dinner). Preregistration required at abwa-maia.org or by emailing rayrr@umich.edu. 763-9631.

★**Writers Reading at Sweetwaters.** Gallaudet University English professor Pia Taavola, a widely published poet whose work is known for its visual imagery, reads poems from 2 of her collections, *Moon on the Meadow* and the forthcoming *Tales from Vermont*. Followed by an open mike. 7–9 p.m., Sweetwaters Coffee & Tea, 123 W. Washington. Free. 369-2798.

★**"The Divine Language of Music": Interfaith Round Table of Washtenaw County Benefit Concert.** Includes choral music by the Temple Beth Emeth Choir, instrumental music by the Matt Endall Ensemble of Canterbury House, chanting by local Sufi Muslims, and Hindu dancing by the Chinmaya Mission. 7–8 p.m., Temple Beth Emeth/St. Clare Episcopal Church, 2309 Packard. \$20 (seniors, \$17; students, \$12). 424-1535.

★**"Great Adventure Trips Around the Globe": Sierra Club.** Several club members give slide-illustrated talks on their most adventurous trips. Refreshments. 7:30 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. doug.cowherd@michigan.sierraclub.org

★**"The Swift Path": Jewel Heart Buddhist Center.** Dec. 15 & 22. Talk by Gehlek Rimpoche, an incarnate lama from Tibet who lives in Ann Arbor. 7:30–9 p.m., Jewel Heart Center, 1129 Oak Valley Dr. (between Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. & Ellsworth). \$10 (students & seniors, \$5). 994-3387.

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★"A Holiday Concert Tradition": Ypsilanti Community Band & Ypsilanti Community Choir. Ariel Toews-Ricotta directs the choir in "We Need a Little Christmas," "I wonder as I wander," and "Ride on, King Jesus." Jerry Robbins directs the band in Alfred Reed's *Russian Christmas Music* and 'Twas the Night Before Christmas, with narration by Jon Margerum-Leys. The program concludes with a joint performance of the "Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's *Messiah*. 7:30 p.m., EMU Pease Auditorium, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Free. 904-5453.

16 WEDNESDAY

★**Book Club:** Ann Arbor Senior Center. All seniors age 50 & over invited to join Liz Gleich to discuss a book TBA at a2gov.org/senior. 10:45 a.m.-noon, Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769-5911.

★**"(Un)Natural History: The Museum Unveiled":** U-M Museum of Art. Docent-led tour of the current exhibit. Noon, UMMA, 525 S. State. Free. 764-0395.

★**"Drumunity!":** Lori Fithian, a local drummer and drum teacher, leads a drum circle. Instruments provided, or bring your own. Kids welcome. Preceded at 6:45 p.m. by a brief drum lesson. 7-9 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room, 114 S. Main. Free. 426-7818.

★**Culinary History Reading Group:** Motte & Bailey, Booksellers. All invited to join a discussion of *Stand Facing the Stove: The Story of the Women Who Gave America the Joy of Cooking*, Anne Mendelson's biography of *The Joy of Cooking* author Irma Rombauer and her daughter Marion. 7:30-9 p.m., Motte & Bailey, 212 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 669-0451.

★**Channeled Spiritual Discussion Group:** Deep Spring Center. All invited to share their spiritual and metaphysical questions. The evening is led by Aaron, a "being of light" channeled by Barbara Brodsky. Tonight Aaron shares his annual Christmas stories about his memories of Jesus. Also, socializing. 7:30-9:30 p.m., 3003 Washtenaw, suite 2 (entry on Glenwood, next to Arby's). Free, but donations are accepted. 477-5848.

★**"Escanaba":** Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 2 Wednesday. 3 & 8 p.m.

★**"Comedy Jamm":** Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 2 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

17 THURSDAY

★**"New and Old Treasures from the Map Library":** U-M Map Library. Display of maps from the library's collection. 4-7 p.m., Map Library, Hatcher Graduate Library, Room 825. Free. 764-0407.

★**Ann Arbor Society for Origami.** All children & adults invited to learn about and try their hand at origami, the Japanese art of paper folding. 7-9:30 p.m., Great Oak Cohousing Common House, 500 Little Lake Dr. (off Parkland from eastbound Jackson between Wagner & Zeeb). Free. 975-4669.

★**"Trek to Everest Base Camp":** Of Global Interest. Slide-illustrated talk by local adventure tour guide Heather O'Neal, who regularly travels to the Himalayas. 7 p.m., 120 Eighth St. Free. 369-3107.

★**"Annie":** Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 3 Thursday. 7 p.m.

★**Eastman Wind Ensemble:** U-M School of Music. See review, p. 61. Mark Davis Scatterday directs this world-renowned University of Rochester music student ensemble in the Tumbao from Roberto Sierra's Symphony no. 3, Debussy's *Homage to Rameau*, Gabrieli's *Aria della Battaglia*, David Maslanka's Symphony no. 4, and Jeff Tyzik's *Riffs*. 8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 764-0594.

★**"A Merrier Christmas":** Dobbins/Krahnke/Weed (Kerrytown Concert House). This local jazz trio of drummer Sean Dobbins, pianist Tad Weed, and bassist Kurt Krahnke is joined by Detroit jazz singer Shahida Nurullah in a program TBA. 8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. \$10-\$25 (students, \$5). Reservations recommended. 769-2999.

★**"Christmas Carol'd":** Performance Network Professional Season. See 3 Thursday. 8 p.m.

★**"Auntie Mame":** PTD Productions. See 10 Thursday. 8 p.m.

★**"Escanaba":** Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 2 Wednesday. 3 & 8 p.m.

★**Allyn Ball:** Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. Dec. 17-19. Veteran comic with an unreconstructed punk attitude and an intelligently fresh and funny point of view. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served; all Fri. & Sat. early shows are nonsmoking. 8 p.m., 314 E. Liberty (below Seva restaurant). \$8 (Thurs.) & \$11 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, \$10 (Thurs.) & \$13 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996-9080.

★**Gaming** brary. De naments f Super Sn down (6- Brothers (Dec. 19, Play (Dec. Tourney talgia (De other Gar (1-4 p.m. (Dec. 29) times, AA noted, 3 Parents 2-10 can & older o 400 W. W tration re ★**Festiv** Area Ass student a TBA, U-M Lyres, El Consort Ring of S Christma David Per local won Also, a pe handbell tin. 7:30 900 S. Se 504-11555 Canterbu TBA. 8 p nation. 76 The Blac House. D semble pe Renaissan ditional v distinct in living roo Swanson A Collect year. Mer Caleb Gi and Kevin fiddle) pla Michael M rier. 8 p.m. (\$5). Reser 25th Ann Ballet Th this local Tchaikovs Based on of a little ports her t dancers p some of th tion since is a benef ley. 8 p.m seniors, \$ advance a master ou call 763- "Annie": 3 Thursday "Christm fessional "Auntie M day. 8 p.m "Escanab 2 Wednes Allyn Bal Thursday.

63rd Ann Audubon diameter must be c fun, and e ers is invi either as a as a feede predawn s a potluck this eveni formation to defray a Bird. To su meister at

18 FRIDAY

***Gaming Tournaments:** Ann Arbor District Library. Dec. 18, 19, 21, 22, & 28-30. Video game tournaments for all ages (unless otherwise noted). Today: **Super Smash Brothers** and **Mario Kart Throw-down** (6-9 p.m.). Also this month: **Super Smash Brothers** and **Mario Kart Grand Championship** (Dec. 19, noon-5 p.m.) for teens in grades 6-12, **Open Play** (Dec. 21 & 22, 1-5 p.m.), **Wii Sports Resort Tourney** (Dec. 21, 6-8:30 p.m.), **Game Cube Nostalgia** (Dec. 22, 6-8:30 p.m.) featuring Melee and 3 other GameCube games, and a **Nintendo DS Fest** (1-4 p.m.) at the Mallets Creek (Dec. 28), Traverwood (Dec. 29), and Pittsfield (Dec. 30) branches. Various times; AADL multipurpose room unless otherwise noted, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-8301.

Parents' Night Out: Ann Arbor YMCA. Kids ages 2-10 can enjoy dinner, games, and sports, and (age 5 & older only) a dip in the pool. 6:15-10 p.m., YMCA, 400 W. Washington. \$30 (members, \$25). Preregistration required. 661-8058.

***"Festive Friday Holiday Nights":** Main Street Area Association. See 11 Friday. Tonight: U-M student a cappella singer **Sean White**, a bagpiper TBA, U-M student a cappella ensemble **Compulsive Lyres**, Elvis tribute artist **Chris Solano**, the **Arbor Consort** madrigal chorus, and swordplay stunts by **Ring of Steel**. 7-9 p.m.

Christmas Concert: Women's Chamber Chorus. David Perample directs this independent 30-member local women's chorus in a concert of holiday music. Also, a performance by the group's **Joyous Ringers** handbell choir. Piano accompanist is Leslie Austin. 7:30 p.m., West Side United Methodist Church, 900 S. Seventh at Davis. Donations accepted. (586) 504-1155.

Canterbury House Benefit Concert. Live music TBA. 8 p.m., Canterbury House, 721 E. Huron. Donation. 761-3162.

The Black House Ceilidh: Kerrytown Concert House. Dec. 18 & 19. This Detroit-area acoustic ensemble performs traditional Yuletide carols, including Renaissance, Scottish, Spanish, and originals in a traditional vein. "The feel is rustic and raw; you get the distinct impression that this is a minstrel show in your living room," says christmasreviews.com critic Carol Swanson of the band's 2006 CD *Upon a Winter's Eve: A Collection of Winter and Yuletide Carols of Yesteryear*. Members are singer and Highland bagpiper Caleb Gilbert, singer-guitarists Ernesto Villarreal and Kevin Tyler, violinist and hardanger (Norwegian fiddle) player Judy Plester, luteist and viola da gambist Michael Manderer, and percussionist Elizabeth Courrier. 8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. \$10 (students, \$5). Reservations recommended. 769-2999.

25th Annual "Nutcracker" Ballet: Ann Arbor Ballet Theater. Dec. 18-20. Carol Radovic directs this local dance company in its performance of Tchaikovsky's perennially popular Christmas ballet. Based on a story by E.T.A. Hoffmann, it tells the tale of a little girl whose magical nutcracker doll transports her to a fairyland on Christmas Eve. About 100 dancers perform, ranging from children to adults—some of the adult dancers have danced in the production since they were tots. The Dec. 18 performance is a benefit for the Humane Society of Huron Valley. 8 p.m., Power Center. Tickets \$24 (students & seniors, \$20; kids age 11 & under, \$14) available in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office, Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

"Annie": Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 3 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Christmas Carol'd": Performance Network Professional Season. See 3 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Auntie Mame": PTD Productions. See 10 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Escanaba": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 2 Wednesday. 3 & 8 p.m.

Allyn Ball: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 17 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

19 SATURDAY

63rd Annual Christmas Bird Count: Washtenaw Audubon Society. The count area is a 15-mile-diameter circle centered on Ann Arbor; its 8 regions must be counted in a single day. The count is great fun, and everyone from novices to experienced birders is invited to volunteer for all or part of the day, either as a field observer or (if you have a bird feeder) as a feeder watcher. Some count regions also conduct predawn searches for owls. The results are tallied at a potluck dinner at Leslie Science & Nature Center this evening. 6 a.m. For instructions and further information, call Jacco Gelderloos at 973-9422. \$5 fee to defray costs of publishing the results in American Bird. To sign up as a feeder watcher, call Kurt Hagemeyer at 663-9746 or 665-7427.

***"Playoga":** Ann Arbor District Library. Local yoga teacher Victoria Forman-Duranona introduces some yoga postures to kids in grades K-3 (accompanied by an adult). 10-10:45 a.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. Free. 327-4200.

"Buhr Blitz": Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation. Public skating, with a family-oriented program of games and contests. Prizes. 2:30-4:30 p.m., Buhr Park Ice Rink, 2751 Packard. \$6 (youths age 17 & under and seniors age 60 & over, \$5). \$1 discount for city residents. Skate rentals available (\$3). 971-3228.

***LezRead Book Club.** All lesbians invited to discuss *Badge 3483*, Charlene Gentry's memoir about being an undercover cop in Detroit. 4-6 p.m., WRAP Resource Center, 319 Braun Ct. Free. 663-0036.

***Treetown Community Chorus.** David Perample directs this independent local mixed chorus in a varied program that includes music by Billy Joel, Coldplay, Randy Newman, P.D.Q. Bach, and others. Piano accompanist is Leslie Austin. 4 p.m., West Side United Methodist Church, 900 S. Seventh St. Free; donations accepted. (586) 504-1155.

***Cultural Show: Children's Russian Club.** Local Russian children present the club's staged adaptations of Oscar Wilde's *The Canterville Ghost* and Gogol's *The Inspector General*. The plays are performed in Russian, with English-language synopses provided. 5 p.m., Washtenaw Community College Liberal Arts and Sciences Bldg. Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free. 741-1953.

***Christmas Festival:** Great Lakes Branch of the Anthroposophical Society of America. The program begins with a performance of the late Ernst and Katherine Katz's Nativity drama *The Ann Arbor Christmas Play*. Followed by lighting of the Christmas tree, singing, and socializing. Bring a Christmas sweet to share. 7 p.m., Rudolf Steiner House, 1923 Geddes Ave. (Parking permitted on the west side of Oswego and the east side of Ridgeway.) Free. 485-3764.

"Muerta Goes to Space Prison": Dreamland Theater. See 12 Saturday. 7 p.m.

3rd Saturday Contra Dance: Cobblestone Farm Dancers. With live music. No partner needed; all dances taught. Preceded by a lesson at 7:30 p.m. 8 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. (just south of Oak Valley Dr.). \$10. 426-0241.

The Black House Ceilidh: Kerrytown Concert House. See 18 Friday. 8 p.m.

25th Annual "Nutcracker" Ballet: Ann Arbor Ballet Theater. See 18 Friday. 2 & 8 p.m.

"Christmas Carol'd": Performance Network Professional Season. See 3 Thursday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Escanaba": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 2 Wednesday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Annie": Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 3 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Auntie Mame": PTD Productions. See 10 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Allyn Ball: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 17 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

"Girls Night 'out' with Tracy Mack": Sh'au! Cabaret and Gallery. Performances by local blues-rock and folk-rock singer-songwriter Mack and another musician TBA. 9 p.m.-midnight, Sh'au!, 325 Braun Ct. \$5 cover. 663-0036.

20 SUNDAY

***"Winter in Waterloo Hike":** Huron Valley Sierra Club. Local outdoorsman Barry Lonik leads a 5-mile hike. 1 p.m., meet at Zingerman's Roadhouse (2501 Jackson) to carpool. Free. 477-5715.

"Frosty on Ice": Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation. All invited to skate with Frosty the Snowman to recorded holiday music. Free candy canes. 1-2:30 p.m., Veterans Ice Arena, 2150 Jackson Rd. \$6 (youths age 17 & under and seniors age 60 & over, \$5). \$1 discount for city residents. Skate rentals available (\$3). 761-7240.

"Skate with Santa": Yost Ice Arena. All invited for a holiday skate. 2-3:50 p.m., Yost Ice Arena, 1016 S. State at McKinley. \$5 (students & seniors, \$3; skate rental, \$2). 647-7482.

Family Dance: Pittsfield Union Grange. All children and their parents or grandparents invited for contra and square dancing with live music. 2-4 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. (just south of Oak Valley Dr.). \$12 per family. 769-1052.

25th Annual "Nutcracker" Ballet: Ann Arbor Ballet Theater. See 18 Friday. 2 p.m.

"Escanaba": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 2 Wednesday. 2 p.m.

"Christmas Carol'd": Performance Network Professional Season. See 3 Thursday. 2 p.m.

***Holiday Concert:** Arbor Opera Theater. This polished local opera company performs classical and popular holiday songs. Followed by a reception with

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the singers. Eggnog & cookies. 3 p.m., First Congregational Church, 608 E. William St. Free; donations accepted. 663-8936.

"Annie": Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 3 Thursday. 3 p.m.

"A Puppet History of Ypsilanti": Dreamland Theatre. See 6 Sunday. 3:30 p.m.

★**Dexter Community Orchestra.** Guest conductor Rob Boardman directs the orchestra in Beethoven's *Choral Fantasy* with the newly formed Dexter Community Orchestra chorus and piano soloist Louis Nagel, a U-M music professor. Also, contemporary composer Christopher Theofanis's popular *Rainbow Body*, Copland's *Quiet City*, and the Overture to Wagner's *Die Meistersinger*. 4 p.m., Dexter Center for the Performing Arts, Dexter High School, 2200 N. Parker (south off Shield from Baker Rd.), Dexter. Free. 355-0725.

★**"Heaven and Earth: VAE with Brass":** Vocal Arts Ensemble. Benjamin Cohen directs this 28-voice chamber choir, accompanied by the **Motor City Brass Band**, in Pinkham's *Christmas Cantata*, Gabrieli's "Hodie Christus natus est," Schuetz's "Psalm 100," and traditional carols and Hanukkah music. Reception follows. 4 p.m., *Genesis of Ann Arbor*, 2309 Packard. \$15 (seniors age 65 & over and students, \$10) in advance at vocalartsannarbor.org, and \$20 (seniors & students, \$15) at the door. 665-7823, 741-7451.

★**"Traditional King's College Festival of Christmas Lessons and Carols":** St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. St. Andrew's music director Deborah Friauff directs the church adult choir, 2 children's choirs, and handbell choir in this traditional English service, in which 9 scripture readings alternate with seasonal anthems and carols, some sung by the congregation. The music begins with a solo treble performance of "Once in Royal David's City." 4 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Free. 663-0518.

Three Men and a Tenor: Encore Musical Theatre Concert Series. Dec. 20-22. This popular Lansing-based quartet mixes comedy and music in a holiday-oriented program of a cappella original tunes and arrangements of popular songs. 7 p.m., *Encore*, 3126 Broad St., Dexter. Tickets \$25 in advance at theencoretheatre.org and at the door. 268-6200.

★**Music for Contemplation Series, Advent 2009:** St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. See 6 Sunday. Today: EMU organ professor Timothy Tikker. 7:15 p.m.

21 MONDAY

★**"Winter Solstice Celebration":** Ann Arbor District Library. Craft activities for preschoolers through 5th graders. 2-3 p.m., AADL Traverwood Branch, 3333 Traverwood at Huron Pkwy. Free. 327-4200.

★**Embroiderers Guild of America.** Stitchers of all abilities invited to work on their projects, socialize, and learn about guild activities. 7 p.m., *United Way*, 2305 Platt. Free to visitors (\$30 annual dues for those who join). 975-4348.

★**Nonfiction Readers Group:** Barnes & Noble. All invited to join a discussion of Ranya Idliby. Suzanne Oliver, and Priscilla Warner's *The Faith Club: A Muslim, a Christian, a Jew—Three Women Search for Understanding*. Refreshments. 7 p.m., off-site location TBA. Free. 973-1618.

Three Men and a Tenor: Encore Musical Theatre Concert Series. See 20 Sunday. 7 p.m.

Michigan Opera Theater Sampler: Talk of the Neighborhood. MOT vocalists Maria Cimorelli and Mark Vondrak perform the classic songs of Jerome Kern, George Gershwin, and Irving Berlin, along with several holiday songs and sing-alongs. Piano accompanist is Joseph Jackson. 7:15 p.m., Recreation Park Community Center, 1015 N. Congress, Ypsilanti. \$5 at the door only. 483-5915.

22 TUESDAY

★**"Fairy Land":** Ann Arbor District Library. Kids in grades K-3 (accompanied by an adult) invited to make a fairy house or garden. 10-11 a.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. Free. 327-4200.

★**"AADL.org":** Ann Arbor District Library. Hands-on introduction to less obvious features of the AADL website, including the advantages of using My Account for placing holds, how to navigate the research tabs, and how and why to tag items. 7 p.m., AADL, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-4555.

Three Men and a Tenor: Encore Musical Theatre Concert Series. See 20 Sunday. 7 p.m.

23 WEDNESDAY

★**"Comedy Jamm":** Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 2 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

24 TH

★**"Marathon reation."** 1:15-5 p.m. \$6 (youth over, \$5). available

★**Living** Costumed sheep, and scene. 4-8 E. William

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★**"The Big Family D** designing ment (TB by Bob th & Jan. 2) Hands-On fans, free.

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★**Christm** fessional

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24 THURSDAY (Christmas Eve)

"Marathon Skate": Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation. Dec. 24 & 31. Skating to music by a DJ. 1:15-5 p.m., Veterans Ice Arena, 2150 Jackson Rd. \$6 (youths age 17 & under and seniors age 60 & over, \$5). \$1 discount for city residents. Skate rentals available (\$3). 761-7240.

***Living Nativity: First Congregational Church.** Costumed reenactors, accompanied by a live camel, sheep, and donkey, re-create the traditional Nativity scene. 4-8 p.m., First Congregational Church, 608 E. William at State. Free. 662-1679.

***Lessons and Carols: First Presbyterian Church.** The traditional program of scripture readings interspersed with sacred carols, anthems, and hymns performed by the church's chancel choir and the First Presbyterian Brass Quintet. Includes music by Distler, Tompson, Hassler, Gardner, and Pergolesi. 5 & 7:30 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. 662-4466.

***Lessons and Carols: Northside Community Church.** A program of scripture readings, sacred music, carol singing, and opportunities for children to place the figures in the Nativity scene, concluding with a candle lighting procession and singing of "Silent Night." 7-8 p.m., Northside Community Church, 929 Barton Dr. Free. 662-6351.

***Festival of Lessons and Carols: First Baptist Church.** The church presents the Christmas story through a program of alternating scriptural readings and choral and congregational singing adapted from the famous Christmas Eve service at King's College, Cambridge (England). Children welcome; child care provided for infants and toddlers. 7:30 p.m., First Baptist Church, 512 E. Huron. Free. 663-9376.

"Christmas Carol'd": Performance Network Professional Season. See 3 Thursday. 8 p.m.

***"Festival Prelude": St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.** St. Andrew's music director Deborah Friauff directs the church choir, bell choir, soloists, and other musicians in a program of Christmas carols, anthems, and other music in candlelight. 10:30 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Free. 663-0518.

25 FRIDAY (Christmas)

26 SATURDAY

"The Big Build": Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum Family Day. Dec. 26-Jan. 3. Activities related to designing and building houses, with live entertainment (TBA at aahom.org). On Jan. 1, an appearance by **Bob the Builder**. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. (Dec. 26, 28-31, & Jan. 2) & noon-5 p.m. (Dec. 27 and Jan. 1 & 3), Hands-On Museum, 220 E. Ann. \$9 (members & infants, free) regular museum admission. 995-5439.

***4th Saturday Contra Dance: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance.** With live music. No partner needed. All dances taught. Holiday snacks. 7-10 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. (just south of Oak Valley Dr.). Free. 730-6919.

"Jeff Daniels: Onstage & Unplugged": Purple Rose Theater Company. Dec. 26, 27, & 31 and Jan. 2 & 3. Movie star, playwright, and Purple Rose founder Daniels, who, it turns out, is also a singer-songwriter, performs folk-flavored originals that may include such favorites as "If William Shatner Can, I Can, Too," "The Lifelong Tiger Fan Blues," "State Trooper," and "Recreational Vehicle," interspersed with chats about how each song came to be. A benefit for Purple Rose. 3 & 8 p.m., Purple Rose, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Tickets \$70-\$85 in advance and at the door. 433-ROSE.

"Christmas Carol'd": Performance Network Professional Season. See 3 Thursday. 3 & 8 p.m.

Chrissy Burns: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. Popular local comic known for her sassy, brassy style and her hapless tales of dieting, dating, and life on the road. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served; the early show is nonsmoking. 8 p.m. & 10:30, 314 E. Liberty (below Seva restaurant). \$8 reserved seating in advance, \$10 general admission at the door. 996-9080.

27 SUNDAY

"Christmas Carol'd": Performance Network Professional Season. See 3 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Jeff Daniels: Onstage & Unplugged": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 26 Saturday. 2 & 7 p.m.

"A Puppet History of Ypsilanti": Dreamland Theater. See 6 Sunday. 3:30 p.m.

28 MONDAY

U-M Exhibit Museum Planetarium. Dec. 28-30. Three different audiovisual planetarium shows. **Little Star** (12:30 p.m.) is an animated show about an average yellow star searching for planets of its own that meets other stars who show him what makes each star special and how they combine to form clusters and galaxies. **The Sky Tonight** (1:30 & 3:30 p.m.) explores the current night sky. **Two Small Pieces of Glass: The Amazing Telescope** (2:30 p.m.) explores how telescopes work and what they can do. 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, & 3:30 p.m., U-M Exhibit Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. \$4.75. 764-0478.

U-M Women's Basketball vs. Northwestern. 7 p.m., Crisler Arena. \$3 (youths under age 18, \$1; U-M students with ID, free). 764-0247.

29 TUESDAY

***"Silly Stories": Ann Arbor District Library.** With nationally renowned local storyteller Laura Pershin Raynor. For kids in grades K-3 (accompanied by an adult). 10-10:30 a.m., AADL youth department story room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-8301.

***"Festive Hats and Noisemakers: Ann Arbor District Library.** All preschoolers through 5th graders invited to make a hat and noisemaker for New Year's Eve. 2-3 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. Free. 327-4200.

***Cherry Cheva: Ann Arbor District Library.** This *Family Guy* writer and producer (and Huron High grad) discusses her career and her new teen novel *She's So Money*, a lighthearted look at senior year in high school. Signing. 7-8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-4555.

30 WEDNESDAY

***"Mexican Hajalata Folk Art": Ann Arbor District Library.** All adults and kids in grade 4 & up invited to try this Mexican art of making tin toys and decorations. 2-3 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-8301.

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 2 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

31 THURSDAY (New Year's Eve)

"24-hour Puppet Show": Dreamland Theater. The Dreamland puppet troupe puppet in the New Year with 24 hours of marionette, rod, and shadow puppet shows. Noon Dec. 31-noon Jan. 1, Dreamland Theater, 26 N. Washington, Ypsilanti. Donation. 657-2337.

***"New Year's Eve Gourmet Dinner Trek": Of Global Interest.** Local adventure tour guide Heather O'Neal leads a 15-mile hike along the Huron River to Depot Town in Ypsilanti, with stops at picnic tables for appetizers, dinner, and dessert. Bring an appetizer, main dish, or dessert, and a hot or cold beverage of your choice. Table service provided. Participants must arrange their own return home. 5 p.m.-midnight, meet at 120 Eighth St. Free. Reservations required. 369-3107.

"Jeff Daniels: Onstage & Unplugged": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 26 Saturday. 3 & 8 p.m.

Willie Barcena: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. This L.A. comic is known for his mild, friendly, but fresh and clever observational and topical humor. He was a frequent guest on the *Tonight Show*, and Jay Leno liked him so much, he hired him for a regular spot as a roving reporter. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. The early show is a nonsmoking show. The late show includes a champagne toast and party favors. 8 & 10:30 p.m., 314 E. Liberty (below Seva restaurant). Tickets \$25 (8 p.m.) & \$30 (10:30 p.m.) in advance and at the door. 996-9080.

"New Year's Eve Dance": Fifth Saturday Productions. Drake Meadow calls contras and English dances to music by Dr. Grangelove. Some couples dancing. 8 p.m.-midnight, Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. (just south of Oak Valley Dr.). \$12. (248) 255-2713.

New Year's Eve Dance: Parents Without Partners. All singles invited for an evening of dancing and socializing. Recorded 70s to contemporary dance music played by DJ Mike Jackson. Continental breakfast served. Cash bar. Dressy attire encouraged. 9 p.m.-2 a.m., Grotto Club, 2070 W. Stadium. \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. 433-1668.

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Michigan's leading showcase for American and international performers of all forms of traditional music. Shows almost every night at 8 p.m., Mon-Sat., & 7:30 p.m., Sun. Unless otherwise noted, tickets are sold in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio and the Michigan Union Ticket Office & all other Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. **Dec. 1: Cliff Eberhardt and Storyhill.** Double bill. Eberhardt is a New York City-based urban troubadour who blends rock, blues, and folk traditions in spare, lean, haiku-like songs that offer alternately shattering and haunting glimpses of an inner world. His latest CD, *School for Love*, is a collection of engaging, insightful songs about relationships gone sour. Storyhill (see review, p. 41) is a veteran pop-folk acoustic singer-songwriter duo known for their agile, shimmering vocal harmonies. Their repertoire blends reflective songs about the vicissitudes of romance with sharp-witted ballads about contemporary life. \$15. **Dec. 2: Lindsay Tomic and Annie Capps.** Double bill. A former Ann Arborite best known locally as a member of the popular 80s duo Trees, Tomic is an L.A.-based folk-rock singer-songwriter and guitarist whose soulful, richly textured songs have been featured everywhere from TV shows like *Desperate Housewives* and *The L Word* to the recent film *Wild Hogs*. Capps is a local singer-songwriter and electric guitarist who writes thoughtful, distinctively personal, warmly exuberant folk-rock songs that are both musically sophisticated and down-home. She's accompanied by her husband, guitarist Rod Capps. \$15. **Dec. 3: Jackopierce.** Pop-rock originals by this recently reunited singer-songwriter duo from Dallas, Texas, known for their well-crafted, literate songs and lyrical melodies. They have a new CD, *Promise of Summer*. \$20. **Dec. 4: Orpheum Bell.** Local self-styled acoustic "country and eastern" quintet that features a richly musical, often ravishing blend of country-folk-rhythms with Gypsy and other Eastern European melodies, drawing on a diverse range of influences from the Carter Family, Grandpa Jones, and Gillian Welch to Kurt Weill, Tom Waits, and the Pogues. Its core sound blends vocals, accordion, guitar, and double bass, with additional texture and luster from violins, clarinet, percussion, and autoharp. Tonight the band celebrates the release of its eagerly awaited 2nd CD, *Pearls*. \$13.50. **Dec. 5: Works Projects Administration Band.** Americana folk-rock supergroup whose influences range from Hank Williams to the Byrds to Tom Petty. Founded by Toad the Wet Sprocket frontman Glen Phillips, Nickel Creek singer-songwriter Sean Watkins, and Lyle Lovett Band fiddler Luke Bulla, the band just released its eponymous debut CD, which features guest appearances by Tom Petty & the Heartbreakers keyboardist Benmont Tench, 2 members of Elvis Costello & the Attractions, and other roots-rock luminaries. \$20. **Dec. 6: Lee Murdock.** Murdock is a Great Lakes troubadour who writes songs about the lives of sailors and fishermen, lighthouse keepers, ghosts, outlaws, and everyday heroes. His music blends ragtime, Irish, blues, and folk styles, and he accompanies himself on 6- and 12-string guitars. Tonight he performs his "Christmas Ship Concert," a family concert commemorating a late 19th-century tradition. At the end of the lumber season, Great Lakes captains would carry a final cargo heralding the holiday season with a deck piled high with fresh-cut evergreen trees and garlands. \$15. **Dec. 8: "A Calypso Christmas."** Traditional Christmas music transformed into sultry, high-energy calypso and reggae by the Trinidad Tripoli Steel Band, a popular Trinidad-born, Ypsilanti-based percussion ensemble founded shortly after WW II by Hugh Borde and currently composed of Borde and several members of his family. \$15. **Dec. 10: Bill Kirchen & George Bedard.** Ann Arbor native (and former Commander Cody guitarist) Kirchen leads his Washington, D. C., honky-tonk ensemble that plays a versatile mix of hard-core honky-tonk, rockabilly, acoustic swing, and countrypolitan balladry. They are joined tonight by local guitar wizard Bedard. ("People in Ann Arbor might think all towns have a George Bedard," Kirchen once told WCBN DJ Dan Moray. "They don't.") \$20. **Dec. 11: Over**

Sari Brown

Somewhere between a woman and a kid

When I first heard Sari Brown's "Blue Ribbon," I thought it was a cover. Not that I assumed this young performer wasn't capable of writing such a good song; it just was so catchy I was sure I'd heard it before. Several of Brown's compositions on her 2009 CD, *Color Suite*, are like that. "Lesley" is an upbeat, playful number, performed on the ukulele, with a chorus that had me singing along by the third repeat. And "Brown Sandstone" runs from sweet to dramatic with the best line of the album: "It sucks to know you want to be a woman / When you're starting all over like a kid."

At twenty-two, Sari Brown is somewhere between a woman and a kid, and her creative output straddles the divide beautifully. She's been writing folksy music since fourteen, recorded her first album at sixteen, and has been performing live all that time. Her experience shows in her stage presence—comfortable and confident—while her youth comes through in a charming giggle and too much talk about the next tune.

Color Suite, her second album, is similarly a mix of mature skill and overwrought analysis. It's a concept album in multiple layers. Every



song but "Lesley" contains a color in the title, and the CD package includes a lengthy booklet of original writings by Brown. These are organized according to the song titles, but they are not the lyrics; instead, you get poems, letters, short stories, and folk tales, some of which illuminate the lyrics (which can be

the Rhine. Energetic heartland rock 'n' roll, at once artful and urgent, by this acclaimed Cincinnati quartet. Led by the husband-and-wife songwriter duo of vocalist Karin Bergquist and bassist Linford Detweiler, the band is known for its enchantingly spare arrangements and its reflective, self-consciously literary lyrics. The band's Ark shows usually sell out in advance. \$25. **Dec. 12: Janis Ian.** Known for her affecting blend of rapt introspection and social consciousness, this veteran folk-pop singer-songwriter scored her biggest hits with "Society's Child" (1967) and "At Seventeen" (1975). Since then she's written songs that have been recorded by everyone from Giorgio Moroder to Kathy Mattea. Opening act is Gretchen Peters, a Nashville singer-songwriter who recently collaborated with Tom Russell on *One to the Heart, One to the Head*, an acclaimed collection of southwestern songs. \$23. **Dec. 13: "8th Annual Concert for Peace."** Several local folk, rock, and roots bands and singer-songwriters perform their own and others' antiwar and peace songs. Performers include singer-songwriters Chris Buhalis, John Latini, Misty Lyn, Dave Boutette, Dick Siegel, Ryan Shea, Tony Morgan, Jo Serrapere, Rod and Annie Capps, and Billy King, along with boogie-woogie pianist Mr. B, the versatile rock 'n' roll band FUBAR, the folk and blues duo Madcat & Kane, the country-folk Jay Stielstra Trio, the folk ensemble Laz Slomovits & Friends, and storyteller La'Ron Williams. Proceeds benefit Michigan Peaceworks. \$20. 7 p.m. **Dec. 14: The Subdudes.** Revamped lineup of this recently reunited roots-rock band from New Orleans whose gospel-flavored vocal harmonies, limber rhythmic verve, and blues- and country-inspired lyrical sensibility often provoke comparisons to Little Feat and the Band. Led by its original songwriters, guitarist Tommy Malone and accordionist John Magnie, the band has an acclaimed new CD, *Flower Petals*. \$25. **Dec. 16: Delbert McClinton.** Legendary Texas honky-tonk singer-songwriter whose music effortlessly melds country, blues, rock 'n' roll, and R&B traditions. A superb blues harpist, McClinton got his start as a teenager in the 50s backing blues masters like Howlin' Wolf and Jimmy Reed in San Antonio bars. Though his own records have typically enjoyed only a cult following, the likes of Emmylou Harris and Vince Gill have turned songs of his into hits, and he has recorded hit duets with Bonnie Raitt, Tanya

Tucker, and others. McClinton's gotten even better with age: his recent recordings evince a relaxed mastery without losing the gritty swagger and drive that's always distinguished his music, and his new CD *Acquired Taste* topped the *Billboard* blues chart. \$50. **Dec. 17: Riders in the Sky.** This innovative, often comical Nashville-based quartet of ace musicians has revitalized the genre of the cowboy song. Inspired by the 1930s group the Sons of the Pioneers, the quartet includes 2 former Ann Arborites, Fred LaBour and onetime Herb David staffer Doug Green. They specialize in elaborate harmonizations of cowboy folk songs, western ballads, and sentimental Hollywood versions of the real thing—one of their CDs is a collection of Gene Autry tunes. Their repertoire also includes old-time fiddle pieces, some jazz numbers, virtuoso yodels, comic send-ups of western drama, and rope tricks. Tonight's show is "Christmas the Cowboy Way." \$20. **Dec. 18: The RFD Boys.** Authentic bluegrass by these longtime local favorites who have appeared in numerous festivals and even made the cover of *Bluegrass Unlimited* magazine. Their shows blend top-notch musicianship with funny between-songs dialogue. They have several recordings, including *Live and Unrehearsed*, a 1994 Ark performance. \$11 at the door only. **Dec. 19 & 20: "Crossroads Ceili."** 2 evenings of Celtic music, song, and dance featuring several international and Detroit-area performers TBA. \$15. 7:30 p.m. **Dec. 31: The Chenille Sisters.** The nationally renowned local trio of singer-songwriters Cheryl Dawdy, Connie Huber, and Grace Morand is known for its unbeatable combination of breathtakingly precise and resonant vocal harmonies, and its repertoire is an eclectic mix of originals and jazz, swing, blues, and folk standards. Expect some new songs and antics for their annual New Year's Eve show. \$35. 10 p.m.

The B-Side

310 E. Washington

214-9995

This all-ages venue in the Neutral Zone teen center features a mix of touring, local, and teen bands, usually Sat., 7-11 p.m. Cover, dancing. **Dec. 5: Heroes on Parade.** Local teen pop-punk band. Opening acts are Diavaul, a local grunge band, and Kaustikutt, a local industrial-rock band. **Dec. 12: Night Shall Eat These Boys and Girls.** Ypsilanti electro-pop trio. Opening acts are Puberty, an experimental ambient-noise band, and

found at saribrown.com). Frankly, it's a bit much. But it comes together as an impressive work of multimedia art.

Brown's writing is graced with the keen observations of someone who likes to take pictures and study the grass. And while most songs are about love, they aren't all love songs. She explores many kinds of love and relationships, more deeply than would seem possible at this early stage of life.

Brown is the daughter of musicians—her father, Doug Brown, often plays keyboard at her gigs—and her natural talent for melody is obvious. But she seems to write for a voice that is lower than her natural range. She wishes she had a throaty, growly, gospel voice, but on the rare moments when she finds her lighter, higher head voice, she also finds the pitch and volume more easily. The lower range, and the resulting low orchestration for her band, muddled her live performance and obscured her worthy lyrics. Perhaps a vocal coach could open up new songwriting possibilities for her. I'm sure I'm not the only admirer who looks forward to watching Sari Brown grow.

It will come as no surprise to hear that Brown attends a tiny, experimental liberal arts college in Vermont. But she's coming home to Ann Arbor in December and will be performing at Crazy Wisdom Tea Room on Saturday, December 19.

—Stephanie Kadel-Taras

Kaustikutt (see above). **Dec. 19: We Are the Union.** Local punk-ska band. Opening act is The Echoes, a local pop-punk band that records for the Neutral Zone label Youth Owned Records.

The Black Pearl

302 S. Main

222-0400

This seafood and martini bar features live music Wed., 7-10 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Dec. 2: Beth Stalker & Jim Rawlings.** An eclectic mix of styles, from blues, R&B, and jazz to rock and country, by the Detroit Music Award-winning duo of singer-songwriter Stalker and songwriter-guitarist Rawlings. **Dec. 9: Laith Al-Saadi.** See Elbow Room. **Dec. 16: Jody Raffoul.** Canadian pop-rock singer-songwriter who's been described as a hybrid of Bono and Bruce Springsteen. He is joined by backup vocalist and guitarist Wes Buckley. **Dec. 23: Chris Genteel.** Rock and soul covers and originals by this local singer-songwriter. **Dec. 30: Laith Al-Saadi.** See Elbow Room.

The Blind Pig

208 S. First St.

996-8555

This local music club features live music 5 nights a week, with a varied assortment of local and out-of-town rock 'n' roll, blues, reggae, and dance bands, 10:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m. (unless otherwise noted). Also, occasional early shows, usually 7-10 p.m. Karaoke on Mon.; closed most Sun. If there's an opening act, the headliner usually goes on stage between 11:30 p.m. and midnight. Cover (except "Showcase Night"), dancing. If advance tickets are sold, they are available at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and all other Ticketmaster outlets. **Every Tues: "Showcase Night."** With 4 different young local bands each week. **Dec. 2: Themselves.** Avant-garde hip-hop duo that records for the influential Anticon label. Opening acts are the brainy and inventive Minneapolis underground hip-hop duo Eyedea & Abilities, the local hip-hop MC Bedroxx, and Station DJs. Advance tickets \$10 (\$12 at the door). **Dec. 3: Beit Habubot.** Israeli rock sextet. Opening act is Farewell Republic, a local neo-psychedelic ambient rock quartet. 8 p.m.-midnight. **Dec. 4: Ann Arbor Soul Club.** Classic soul music by the local DJ duo of Brad Hales and Robert Wells. **Dec. 5: Nomo.** Nationally acclaimed local 9-piece ensemble that plays a mix of Afrobeat with Sun Ra- and Coltrane-influenced jazz. The band recently released its Ubiquity Records debut,

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New Tones. Opening act is **UUVVWWZ**, an inventive art-rock quartet with blues and jazz inflections from Lincoln, Nebraska. Advance tickets: \$10. **Dec. 9: Tokyo Sexwhale.** Ottawa punk-metal quartet. Opening acts TBA. **Dec. 10: The Ferdy Mayne.** Ypsilanti folk-rock trio. Opening acts are **Cavalier Rose**, a highly regarded Brooklyn (NY) soul-inflected rock quartet fronted by vocalist Heather Christian, and **The Wolfs**, an Ypsilanti rock band. **Dec. 11: Lawn Care.** Local rock 'n' roll garage quartet formerly known as the Butt Boys. Opening acts TBA. **Dec. 12: Raekwon the Chef.** Acclaimed New York hip-hop MC, a member of the Wu-Tang Clan whose best-selling new CD, *Only Built 4 Cuban Linx Part II* has been praised for its blend of lyricism and riveting cinematic narrative. Opening acts are **Capone & Noreaga**, a Queens (NY) hip-hop duo, and **Queen YoNasDa**, a politically conscious hip-hop soul singer who's been compared to both Queen Latifah and Lauryn Hill. Advance tickets: \$20 (\$25 includes a copy of the CD). **Dec. 16: The Katz.** Local techno-funk jam band led by My Dear Disco guitarist Katz. **Dec. 17: C-Rudd.** Ypsilanti hip-hop MC. Opening acts are **Nate the Great**, a Detroit hip-hop MC, and **Self Made**, an area hip-hop MC. **Dec. 18: "Rock 'n' Roll Revival."** An all-star jam of veteran Ann Arbor-bred rockers hosted by MC5 drummer **Dennis "Machine Gun" Thompson**, and featuring **Rationals** singer-songwriter and guitarist **Scott Morgan**, **Cult Heroes** frontman **Hiawatha Bailey**, and singer-guitarist **Denis Tek**, an Ann Arbor native who made a name for himself in the 70s as the leader of the pioneering Australian punk band **Radio Birdman**. Also, **Gorevette**, a Detroit garage pop quartet fronted by Nikki Corvete and Amy Gore of the **Gore Girls**, and **Mazinga**, a veteran Ypsilanti band that plays rough, raw, Detroit-style rock 'n' roll. **Dec. 19: Tickled Fancy Burlesque Co.** Popular local postpunk burlesque troupe. Opening acts TBA. **Dec. 23: Five Tongues.** Ypsilanti indie rock band. Opening acts are **Looking for Mammoths**, an Ypsilanti funk-rock trio, and another band TBA. **Dec. 26: Three Blue Teardrops.** Rockabilly/psychobilly garage trio from Chicago. Opening acts TBA. **Dec. 30: Algernon.** Westland-area arena rock band. Opening acts are 2 similar Westland-area bands, **Seraphim** and **Cordless Penguin**. **Dec. 31: The Bang!** Dance party with this local DJ collective that plays garage and 70s rock. 10 p.m.-4 a.m.

Café Habana

211 E. Washington 332-6046
The cellar bar of this downtown restaurant features salsa DJs, Thurs., 9 p.m.-2 a.m. & Sun., 8 p.m.-midnight. No cover, dancing.

The Circus

210 S. First St. 913-8890
This 2nd-floor downtown club features live music on Wed. & occasional Thurs., 10 p.m.-2 a.m., and live music or DJs on Fri. & Sat., 10 p.m.-2 a.m. in the street-level **Millennium Club** or basement **Cavern Club**. Karaoke, Thurs.-Sat., 10 p.m.-2 a.m. No cover, no dancing (unless otherwise noted). Age 21 & older admitted. **Dec. 2: Chris Buhalis & Friends.** A popular local singer-songwriter who sings engaging, fresh-minded folk-country originals in a rich, warm voice, Buhalis is joined by other local musicians TBA. **Dec. 5: Covert Operations.** Flint bluegrass-jam band. In the Millennium Club. **Dec. 9: The Bearded Ladies.** Local Americana bluegrass quartet. **Dec. 12: Killer Flamigos.** Rock 'n' roll covers and originals by this popular, veteran band from Dearborn. Cover, dancing. In the Millennium Club. **Dec. 16: Dave Boutette & Friends.** Boutette is a local folk-rock singer-guitarist whose genial songs about the small ups and downs of ordinary life draw on a range of influences from Chuck Berry to Paul Westerberg. He is joined by other local musicians TBA. **Dec. 23: Joe Summers Gypsy Jazz Trio.** See Jolly Pumpkin. **Dec. 30: Winter/Sessions.** Progressive bluegrass with a Americana flavor by this Michigan quartet. **Dec. 31: New Year's Eve Party.** With the **Killer Flamigos** (see above). \$39.95 cover includes a dinner buffet. In the Millennium Club. 8 p.m.-4 a.m.

Club Above

215 N. Main 663-7758
This dance club with a brand-new sound system on the top floor of the Heidelberg restaurant features live music Thurs. & Sat., 9:30 p.m.-2 a.m., and live happy hour bands on Fri., 6:15-8:30 p.m. Also, DJ on Fri. and charity poker on Sun.-Wed., 9 p.m.-2 a.m. Cover, dancing. Age 21 & over only unless otherwise noted. **Dec. 3: Boherald.** Experimental psychedelic-rock quintet from Pinckney. Opening acts are **Royale**, a local rock 'n' roll band, and **A Pony for Christmas**, a local rock quartet. **Dec. 4 (6:15-8:30 p.m.): FUBAR.** 6-piece band led by

guitarist Randy Tessier and featuring vocalist Sophia Hanifi. Their repertoire is an eclectic mix of originals by Hanifi and Tessier and covers of everyone from the Everly Brothers, the Kinks, and the Yardbirds to Miles Davis and Steve Earle. **Dec. 5: "DJs Jam for World AIDS Night."** With U-M student DJs. **Dec. 10: The View.** Ypsilanti rock quartet fronted by singer-songwriter B.J. Walraven. Opening acts are **Sixteen More Miles**, a popular local neopsychedelic rock 'n' roll quartet formerly known as The Restroom Poets, and **Guns of Abalone**, a new local rock band. **Dec. 11 (6:15-8:30 p.m.): Orange Door Hinge.** Local big band led by saxophonist and II-V-I Orchestra frontman David Swain that plays an eclectic mix of everything from funk and disco to Steely Dan and TV cop show themes. **Dec. 12: "The Carnival."** An evening of hip-hop and dubstep (a type of electronic dance music) with local musicians TBA. **Dec. 17: "Claudia's Birthday Bash."** Club Above booking agent Claudia Leo celebrates her birthday with performances by a revolving lineup of local musicians TBA. **Dec. 18 (6:15-8:30 p.m.): Deep Space Six.** Popular local Grateful Dead cover band. **Dec. 19: "Plastic Passion."** DJ retro dance party with an eclectic mix of everything from New Wave, Britpop, and postpunk to acid house, goth rock, and industrial. **Dec. 26: Los Coronados.** Reunion of this local retro rock band. Opening act TBA. **Dec. 31: "Plastic Passion."** See above. With live bands TBA. 9 p.m.-4 a.m.

Common Cup

1511 Washtenaw 327-6914
This coffeehouse run by the University Lutheran Chapel features live music and other entertainment Fri., 8-9 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Dec. 5: Many Sparrows.** Acoustic Christian rock band. **Dec. 11: Patrick Munley & Emily Bond.** Acoustic pop-folk duo from Flint.

Conor O'Neill's

318 S. Main 665-2968
Downtown Irish pub with live music Sun. 7:30-10 p.m. and Thurs. & Sat. 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m., and a DJ on Fri. 10 p.m.-2 a.m. Karaoke on Sun., 10 p.m.-2 a.m. **Every Sun.: Traditional Irish Session.** All invited to join or listen to an instrumental jam session. Followed at 10 p.m. by karaoke. **Dec. 3: Count Bracey & the Pleasure Tones.** Detroit blues band. **Dec. 5: Joshua & Jeremy Sprague.** An eclectic mix of rock covers by veteran local singer-songwriter Jerry Sprague's 2 sons. **Dec. 10: Mossy Moran.** Traditional singer from Ireland. **Dec. 12: K.T.'s Alibi.** Redford pop-rock quartet led by vocalist Katie Jimmerson. **Dec. 17: The Terraplanes.** Local band led by singer-guitarist Jerry Mack that plays a mix of house-rocking blues, uptown swing, soulful R&B, and roots rock. **Dec. 19: Michael May & the Messarounds.** Jazz-inflected blues and blues-rock by this veteran local quartet led by vocalist and blues harpist May. **Dec. 26: Randy Brock Group.** Detroit blues trio. **Dec. 31: "New Year's Eve Party."** Dancing to a DJ, along with champagne toasts at 7 p.m. (midnight in Ireland) and midnight, a 4-course dinner, breakfast, and party favors. 6 p.m.-2:30 a.m., \$60 in advance and (if available) at the door.

Crazy Wisdom Tea Room

114 S. Main 665-9468
Tea room above Crazy Wisdom Bookstore features live music occasional Fri. & Sat., 8:30-10:30 p.m. **Dec. 4: Bill Bynum & Co.** Downriver singer-songwriter and guitarist whose bluegrass-based songs also draw on old-time, early country, gospel, and contemporary folk music. His band includes fiddler Mary Seelhorst, dobro player Dave Keeney, and bassist Chuck Anderson. **Dec. 5: Jim Smith & Friends.** Local singer-songwriter Smith is joined by vocalist Sophia Hanifi and local acoustic musicians Mike Caswell and Dave Keeney for an evening of country-folk. **Dec. 11: John Churchville & Meeta Banerjee.** North Indian classical music by tabla player Churchville and sitarist Banerjee. **Dec. 12: Old School.** An eclectic mix of popular American music styles by this local ensemble led by keyboardist Martin Simmons. **Dec. 18: Rock-etstyle.** Local jazz funk trio featuring keyboardist Jesse Morgan, drummer John Churchville, and bassist Rob Crozier, along with guest musicians TBA. **Dec. 19: Sari Brown & the Colortones.** See review, p. 66. Local band led by Brown, a young singer-songwriter who writes reverent yet unconventional spirituals, late-night traveling songs, and folk-style story songs with poetic lyrics and a strong political sensibility. **Dec. 26: Dylan Brock & Ian Link.** Americana and comedy acoustic duo from western Michigan.

Creekside Grill and Bar

5827 Jackson Rd. 827-2737
The intimate basement bar in this restaurant in Scio Township features occasional live music. Cover, dancing. **Dec. 27: II-V-I Orchestra.** Veteran local big band, led by saxophonist David Swain, that plays late-1930s swing and 1940s R&B. 6:30-9 p.m.

Dreamland Theater

26 N. Washington, Ypsilanti 657-2337
This downtown Ypsilanti theater features occasional live music, 9-11 p.m. or later. Cover (usually a donation), no dancing. December schedule TBA.

Elbow Room

6 S. Washington, Ypsilanti 483-6374
This Ypsilanti tavern features live music and/or DJs Mon.-Thurs., 9 p.m.-1 a.m., and Fri. & Sat., 10 p.m.-2 a.m. (Also, occasional Sun., 8 p.m.-midnight. No cover. \$5 suggested donation), dancing. **Every Sun.: Todd Osborne.** Detroit-area electronic musician. **Every Mon.: Laith Al-Saadi.** Soulful acoustic rock and blues covers and originals by this local singer-guitarist. **Every Thurs. (except Dec. 24 & 31): "Mofu Karaoke."** With "the standard karaoke playlist crap plus 2,500+ obscure and awesome songs." **Dec. 1: "Tiki Tuesday."** The Elbow Room Tiki Tuesday band plays surf music and various exotica. Also, performances by the belly dancer **Aurora** and magician **Scarboni**. **Dec. 2: Jim Cherewick.** Local folk-rock singer-songwriter. Opening acts are **Kinetic Stereokids**, an experimental Flint space-pop band, and **Alexander Silver & Connor Dodson**, a local Americana singer-songwriter duo. **Dec. 4: Chef Chris & the Rumpshakers.** Local blues band. Opening acts are **Black Irish**, a Detroit blues-rock quartet, and **Dirt Road Logic**, a local 70s-style rock 'n' roll band fronted by singer-guitarist Eric Kelly. **Dec. 5: The Patriot Act.** Local glam-metal quartet. Opening acts TBA. **Dec. 8: "No More Bunk Parties."** DJs Scarboni and VJCC spin soul, funk, and rock 'n' roll records. **Dec. 9: TBA.** **Dec. 11: Joe Buck Yourself.** Hillbilly punk by former Legendary Shack Shakers guitarist and Hank Williams III bassist Buck. Opening acts are **The Goddamn Gallows**, a Lansing psychobilly quartet, and **Halfmoon Highway**, a Detroit postpunk honky-tonk quartet. **Dec. 12: TBA.** **Dec. 15: "The Cycle."** DJs Blakguts and Joe Vargas spin funk, soul, and indie dance records. **Dec. 16: TBA.** **Dec. 18: TBA.** **Dec. 19: Boy-wife.** Punk-rock band from Ypsilanti whose music draws on Chinese pop, Japanese classical music, and Mexican regional music. Opening acts are **Man at Arms**, a local indie rock duo, and **The Paver**, a Chicago indie rock trio. **Dec. 22: TBA.** **Dec. 23: Dada Trash Collage.** Minneapolis experimental art-rock band. Opening acts TBA. **Dec. 26: TBA.** **Dec. 29: "Elbow Deep."** Gay and lesbian gala with Detroit DJ **Humanfly**. **Dec. 30: TBA.** **Dec. 31: Mittenfest.** A 4-night showcase (through Jan. 3) of more than 25 current and former local bands in a wide spectrum of genres. A benefit for the nonprofit youth tutoring and writing center 826michigan. Tonight's headliner (at midnight) is **Chris Bathgate**, a local singer-songwriter who writes heartfelt, poetic story songs in a variety of moods. Opening acts are the local pop-folk band **Matt Jones & the Reconstructions**, the Detroit experimental New Wave band **Electric Fire Babies**, the atmospheric pop-rock quintet **White Pines**, the Traverse City acoustic pop-folk trio **Photographers**, **The Ferdy Mayne** (see Blind Pig), Ypsilanti pop-folk singer-songwriter **Annie Palmer**, Ferndale emo singer-songwriter **Elle & the Fonts**, the Houghton pop-folk acoustic quintet **This Is Deer Country**, and **Stargazer**. The live music is followed by a dance party with a DJ. \$10 cover. 6 p.m.-4 a.m.

Goodnite Gracie

301 W. Huron 752-5740
Martini and cigar bar below Live at PJ's lounge. Live music Thurs. 9:30 p.m.-2 a.m., DJ Fri. & Sat. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. Cover, no dancing. **Every Thurs.: TBA.** **Dec. 5: "5:01 Jazz Series."** With **Hal Davis & Hi Def**, a local jazz ensemble led by guitarist Davis. 5-8 p.m.

Guy Hollerin's

3600 Plymouth Rd. 769-9800
The restaurant in the North Campus Holiday Inn features music on Fri. (through Dec. 18) & Sat., 8 p.m.-midnight. Cover, dancing. **Dec. 4: Rick Stel Project.** Detroit blues-rock band led by singer-guitarist Stel. **Dec. 5: Bluescasters.** Veteran local blues and blues-rock quartet. **Dec. 11: Drivin' Sideways.** Veteran local band fueled by Pontiac Pete Ferguson's alternately soulful and ornery vocals. Their country-based repertoire still fea-

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Music at Nightspots

tures lots of classic honky-tonk, but they also cover everyone from Chuck Berry and Johnny Burnette to the Beatles and James Brown. With guitarist George Bedard, bassist Chris G, drummer Mark Newbound, and keyboardist Jim King. **Dec. 12: Steve Nardella Rock 'n' Roll Trio.** Ann Arbor's most passionate and compelling roots-rockers performs fiercely cathartic, blues-drenched reworkings of rock 'n' roll and rockabilly classics and obscure gems, along with some authentic Muddy Waters and John Lee Hooker blues. **Dec. 18: The Chris Canas Blues Revolution.** Detroit blues band fronted by Canas, a young blues vocalist and virtuoso guitarist. **Dec. 19: Howling Diablos.** Wild-humored blues and rock 'n' roll by this veteran Detroit quintet led by vocalist Martin "Tino" Gross. **Dec. 26: George Bedard & the Kingpins.** Superfine honky-tonk dance tunes from swing to vintage blues, country, rockabilly, and early rock 'n' roll classics, with some memorable originals penned by guitar genius Bedard. With drummer Rich Dishman and bassist Randy Tessier. The band has released 3 acclaimed CDs and is working on an all-instrumental CD that includes "Swing Minor 65," Bedard's surf-music adaptation of a Django Reinhardt tune.

The Habitat Ultralounge 3050 Jackson Rd. 665-3636

The lounge at Weber's Inn features dance bands Tues.-Thurs., 8:45 p.m.-12:30 a.m., and Fri. & Sat., 8:45 p.m.-1:30 a.m. Also, DJ Mon., 7 p.m.-midnight, and solo pianists Tues.-Sun., 6-8:45 p.m. Dancing, no cover. **Dec. 1-3: Justine Blazer.** Acoustic duo led by this Detroit country-rock singer-songwriter. **Dec. 4 & 5: Scoot Magoo.** Allen Park rock 'n' roll quintet. **Dec. 8-10: Identical Strangers.** Classic rock by the Windsor duo of vocalist Danielle Samson and guitarist Scott Giles. **Dec. 11 & 12: Collision Six.** Detroit rock quintet that plays originals and 80s and 90s covers. **Dec. 15-19: Soulstice.** Hard-driving horn-fueled funk dance band from East Lansing. **Dec. 22 & 23: Green-Eyed Soul.** Windsor pop trio fronted by vocalists Melissa Danese and Fallon Deluca. **Dec. 26: Persuasion.** Versatile Detroit R&B dance band. **Dec. 29: "Live Rock 'n' Roll Karaoke."** Karaoke with prerecorded rhythm tracks, and live guitars and keyboards by the Hartland trio **Double Take.** **Dec. 30: TBA.** **Dec. 31: Remedy.** Detroit dance band. Also, in the ballroom, **Ultraviolet,** a Detroit band that plays 70s & 80s rock hits.

The Halfass
Church St. entrance
to East Quad 764-8558
Informal student-dominated cafe, also known as the Halfway Inn. Occasional live music, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. Cover, dancing. **Dec. 11: Alexander Silver.** Local pop-folk singer-songwriter. Opening acts are **Secret Twins**, a local garage punk quartet, and **Chris Bathgate** (see Elbow Room).

The Jolly Pumpkin
311 S. Main 913-2730
The 2nd-floor lounge in this downtown brewpub features live music Tues. & Thurs. 9 p.m.-1 a.m. No cover, no dancing. **Dec. 1: Paul VornHagen Trio.** Jazz standards by this local trio led by saxophonist and flutist VornHagen. With pianist Tad Weed and bassist Kurt Krahnke. **Dec. 3: Dave Sharp's Secret Seven.** Straight-ahead jazz by this ensemble led by veteran local bassist Sharp. **Dec. 8: Joe Summers Gypsy Jazz Trio.** This local trio led by guitar virtuoso Summers plays the music of Django Reinhardt, Charlie Christian, and Lenny Breau. With guitarist Chris Moyer and bassist Dave Sharp. **Dec. 10: Bob Skon Trio.** Folk-rock covers and originals by this trio led by Skon, a local singer-songwriter known for his wry songs about love and loss. **Dec. 15: Paul VornHagen Trio.** See above. **Dec. 17: Dave Sharp's Secret Seven.** See above. **Dec. 22: Joe Summers**



L.A.-based singer-songwriter and guitarist Lindsay Tomasic, a former Ann Arborite best known locally as a member of the popular 80s duo Trees, plays at the Ark Dec. 2.

Gypsy Jazz Trio. See above. **Dec. 29: Dan Rooney.** Rock covers and originals by this Royal Oak singer-songwriter. **Dec. 31: Dave Sharp's Secret Seven.** See above.

Keystone Underground Martini Bar 200 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti 544-9960

This basement lounge beneath J. Neil's Mongolian Grille features live music Mon. 8:15-11 p.m., Thurs., 8-11 p.m., & Fri. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. Also, DJs on Wed. & Sat., 9 p.m.-2 a.m. Cover, no dancing. **Every Mon.: Paul Keller Orchestra.** Award-winning 15-piece big band led by bassist Keller and featuring vocalist Susan Chastain. **Every Thurs.: Doug Horn Trio.** 40s & 50s swing and bebop by a jazz ensemble led by local alto saxophonist Horn. **Every Fri.: Live roots music bands TBA.**

Live at PJ's 102 S. First St. 752-5740

This lounge features live music Sun. 5-8 p.m., Wed. 8 p.m.-midnight & occasional other nights; karaoke with a live band Thurs., 9 p.m.-midnight; & (unless otherwise noted) DJs Fri.-Sat., 10 p.m.-2 a.m. Cover, dancing. **Every Sun.: Phil Ogilvie's Rhythm Kings.** This local 10-piece big band is one of the few to specialize in the old-time big-band music of the late 1920s and early 1930s associated with Jelly Roll Morton and King Oliver. Arrangements by the renowned early-jazz pianist James Dapogny and tubaist Chris Smith. **Every Wed.: Los Gatos.** Mambos and cha-chas by this local Latin jazz band led by drummer Pete Siers that specializes in the music of Cal Tjader, the late San Francisco vibes player who ignited the 1950s mambo craze. With beginning (8:45 p.m.) & intermediate (10 p.m.) dance lessons and a dance contest (11 p.m.) with prizes. **Dec. 4: Nick Strange Band.** Popular local trio led by singer-guitarist Strange that plays originals with an eclectic mix of influences from Miles Davis and Ruben Blades to Bob Marley and early 70s rock, along with an occasional country cover. With drummer John Churchville and bassist Sam Monroe. 8-10 p.m. **Dec. 5: Brett Levy & Momena.** Acoustic funk ensemble. 8-10 p.m. **Dec. 11: Third Coast Kings.** Local funk band. 8-10 p.m. **Dec. 12: The Bobby Streng & Liquid Street.** Jazz-funk fusion quartet led by saxophonist Streng. 8-10 p.m.

Melange Subterranean Bistro 314 S. Main 222-0202

The lounge in this downtown restaurant features live music Thurs., 10 p.m.-2 a.m. Also, DJs on Fri. & Sat. Dancing, no cover. **Every Thurs.: Lucas Paul Band.** Local quartet led by pop-rock singer-songwriter Paul.

The Necto 516 E. Liberty 994-5436

This popular dance club features local and national DJs 4 nights a week, Mon. & Thurs.-Sat., 9 p.m.-2 a.m. Also, occasional live shows. Cover, dancing.

Old Town 122 W. Liberty 662-9291

This downtown corner bar features live music Sun. & occasional other nights, 8-10 p.m. No dancing, no cover. The performers are usually accompanied by various drop-in friends. **Dec. 6: Timothy Monger.** Engaging pop-rock singer-songwriter-guitarist from the Great Lakes Myth Society known for his high lonesome tunes. **Dec. 13: Pale Dave.** Local folk-rock singer-songwriter. **Dec. 20: Charlie Weaver.** Acoustic folk music "with a touch of bluegrass and trout stream rhythms" by this northern Michigan singer-guitarist (and fishing guru), a former Ann Arborite who was a regular at the Old Town Sunday night folk jams in the early 80s.

Dec. 27: Scotty Karate. One-man postpunk honky-tonk rock 'n' roll band from Chelsea whose *Get It in the Teepee* won acclaim from one critic for its "intricately written songs and lyrics [that] pour from the heart with poetic sarcasm and leave a delicious aftertaste." Opening act is **Billy Catfish**, a mischievous country-folk and roots-rock singer-songwriter and performance artist from Cincinnati.

Oz's Music Environment 1920 Packard 662-8283

This storefront next to Oz's music store features live music most Tues., 7:30-9:30 p.m. (unless otherwise noted). Cover by donation, no dancing. 8-10 p.m. **Dec. 1: "Songwriters Open Mike."** All songwriters invited. Hosted by Jim Novak. **Dec. 8: "Anything Goes Open Stage & Song Circle."** All musicians invited. Hosted by Laura MacKimmie. **Dec. 22: "Ukulele Jam."** Musicians of all ability levels invited.

The Quarter Bistro 300 S. Maple 929-9200

This west-side restaurant features live music Sat., 6:30-9 p.m., and occasional other nights. Also, a DJ on Fri., 6-9 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Dec. 5: Wendy Cusick.** Alt-rock singer who is accompanied by her husband, acoustic guitarist Greg Cusick. **Dec. 10: Hal Davis & the High Def Band.** Local classic rock band. 6:30-9 p.m. **Dec. 12: Brad McNett.** Local jazz quartet led by vocalist McNett. **Dec. 19: Wendy Cusick.** See above. **Dec. 26: TBA.**

Tap Room 201 W. Michigan, Ypsilanti 482-5320

This popular downtown Ypsilanti tavern features live music Thurs. & Fri. 8 p.m.-midnight, & Sat. 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m. No cover, dancing. **Every Thurs.: Electric Open Mike.** Hosted by **The Martindales**, a local band led by singer-guitarist Brian Brickley that plays blues and rock covers and originals. All electric musicians invited. **Every Fri.: John Latini & Friends.** Acoustic rock-based originals by this veteran local rock 'n' roll singer songwriter, who is joined by different guest musicians TBA each week. **Dec. 5 (6-8 p.m.): Ann Arbor Music Center Rock Band.** Adult student musicians perform classic and modern rock covers. **Dec. 5: The 1's & 2's.** Detroit band that plays Motown and Stevie Wonder covers. **Dec. 12: Tracy Kash Thomas.** R&B, jazz, and roots originals and covers by this Detroit singer-songwriter. **Dec. 19:** No music. **Dec. 26: TBA.**

Classifieds & Personals

Personals Key

A=Asian	J=Jewish
B=Black	L=Letters
C=Christian	LTR=Long Term Relationship
D=Divorced	M=Male
F=Female	ND=Nondrinker
G=Gay	NS=Nonsmoker
H=Hispanic	P=Phone Calls
H/WP=Height & Weight	P=Professional
Proportionate	S=Single
ISO=In Search Of	W=White

Women Seeking Men

The Classifieds deadline for the January issue is December 10.

PERSONAL LETTER RESPONSE
\$3 per letter
See Instruction Box.

Bright, slim, caring **SWPF** ISO true gentleman for friendship, maybe more. RSVP soon. 5786

Attractive, fun, spiritual **SWPF** ISO my honest, compassionate, non-commitment-phobic counterpart, 45-60. Must like long walks, blah, blah. 5792

Men Seeking Women

The Classifieds deadline for the January issue is December 10.

PERSONAL LETTER RESPONSE
\$3 per letter
See Instruction Box.

Bright, bearded, boyish-Koalabeerish **SWM** professor, 62, likes chats, cats, cuddling, cinema, concerts, cuisine, (Leonard) Cohen, travel, seeks LTR. 5793

SWM/WW II vet (AA resident) seeks local SF (any hue), in 60s/70s (fit to serve as voluntary first mate in his 42-foot houseboat—no boating experience necessary). 6-person crew will share expenses on cruise from FL Keys to Port Huron, MI, and beyond. Captain is widower/sailor/writer/theater/cycler/swimmer. Request snail mail reply. Photo okay, but not required. 5791

SWM, 59, gray teddy bear, seeks a honey for chess, jazz, BBQs, and more. 5775

DWM, 70 years young, 195 lbs., 5'11", attractive, home-centered. Enjoys music, movies, travel. ISO slender A, H, or WF for LTR. 5689

Women Seeking Women

The Classifieds deadline for the January issue is December 10.

PERSONAL LETTER RESPONSE
\$3 per letter
See Instruction Box.

Men Seeking Men

The Classifieds deadline for the January issue is December 10.

PERSONAL LETTER RESPONSE
\$3 per letter
See Instruction Box.

General Personals

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Overnight Introductory Meditation Course. 7 p.m., Fri., Dec. 4, to noon Sat., Dec. 5. \$160 includes room and breakfast. **One-Day Zen Meditation Retreat.** Sat., Dec. 29, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., \$60. **Zen Buddhist Temple,** 1214 Packard St. (734) 761-6520. annarbor@ZenBuddhistTemple.org

Miscellaneous

The Classifieds deadline for the January issue is December 10.

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490 S. Maple, Ann Arbor. Next to Kroger. 662-5262. www.ccindoorstorage.com.

I SPY CONTEST

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SALINE - This is one of the premier residences on the market today. Custom-built for the 2004 Showcase of Homes this home has all the features and amenities you've hoped for. Incredible lot with pool, hot tub, and large patio. The interior is spectacular including great room with 12' ceilings, gourmet kitchen with Viking appliances, den, luxury master suite, bonus room, and finished lower level with rec room, bar and theater. \$899,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



STONEBRIDGE - Gorgeous custom-built home overlooking the 7th fairway at Stonebridge. Very current home loaded with quality upgrades inside and out. Great lot with extensive landscaping, large patio, and expansive views. Interior features extremely open floor plan with vaulted ceilings in most rooms, two-story great room, gourmet kitchen with granite, luxury first-floor master suite, and unique bonus room. \$569,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



SALINE - Absolutely gorgeous 4-bedroom, 4½-bath, custom-built builder's model home in Huntington Woods. This home is loaded with quality upgrades throughout. Features include two-story foyer and family room, cherry kitchen with 11' ceilings and granite counters, extensive trim and molding, luxury master suite, and finished walkout basement. \$499,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



NEW LISTING - CENTENNIAL PARK - Fabulous 4-bedroom, 3½-bath home in one of Saline's most popular neighborhoods. This home has all the features and amenities you've been hoping for. Features include cherry kitchen with granite and stainless steel appliances, open family room, great formal spaces, den, luxury master suite, and finished basement with great rec space. \$479,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



JACKSON - incredible 4-bedroom, 4-bath custom-built home in the Sanctuary at Brills Lake, one of Jackson's most desired subs. This 2004 Parade of Homes entry is loaded with custom features and amenities including 2-story family room with wall of windows, kitchen with cherry cabinets and granite counters, den, luxury master suite, and gorgeous wooded lot. \$469,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



BRIARHILL - This 4-bedroom, 6-bath 2002 Showcase of Homes entry on a quiet, interior, cul-de-sac lot is loaded with quality features and amenities. You will love this home. Features include two-story foyer, custom kitchen with granite and stainless steel appliances, den, two-story family room, luxury master suite, and finished basement with view out windows. \$419,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



YORK PALCE - Spectacular 4-bedroom, 3.2-bath custom-built colonial on a spacious acre lot in one of Saline's most desired subs. This home is just perfect inside and out including extensive landscaping and patio. Interior features 9' ceilings, open family room, den, sun room, luxury master suite, and finished basement. You will love it!! \$399,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



BARTON HILLS AREA - New construction just minutes from downtown Ann Arbor and U of M. This 5-bedroom, 3½-bath home on a peaceful 1.5 acre parcel features wonderful oversized rooms, ample hardwood floors, custom kitchen with professional grade appliances, luxury master suite. \$399,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



WATERWAYS - Incredible 4-bedroom, 3½-bath colonial on a quiet, wooded cul-de-sac deep within the neighborhood. Wonderful setting with large backyard, large deck, and professional landscaping. The interior of this home has been completely redone. Features include remodeled kitchen with granite counter tops, extensive hardwood floor, luxury master suite, and beautifully finished lower level. Saline Schools. \$394,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



CHELSEA - Spectacular 3-bedroom, 3½-bath custom-built ranch on a peaceful 2.2 acre setting, just north of town. Great quality home loaded with upgrades and amenities. Features include great room with vaulted ceiling, large kitchen, parlor, luxury master suite with sitting room, and finished basement with rec room, study, and bath. 2½-car attached garage plus 3-car detached garage. Perfect for hobbies. \$359,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



LAKEWOOD - This classic 1920s Tudor has been restored back to its original grandeur. The setting features extensive landscaping, oversized deck, and great backyard. Interior features all hardwood floors, living room fireplace, sunroom, formal dining, new kitchen with granite, nice master suite, and finished basement. \$349,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



LOCH ALPINE - Quality built 4-bedroom, 2½-bath home with panoramic views of Ann Arbor Country Club golf course. Wonderful hill top setting gives some of the best views you'll see. Interior features great room with vaulted ceiling, open kitchen with granite counters and stainless steel appliances, luxury master suite, and finished basement. \$339,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



SALINE - This perfectly maintained and nicely update 4-bedroom, 3½-bath home in Rolling Hills is one of the best values on the market today. Gorgeous setting backs to open space and has a pond view. Incredible space with over 4,000 sq. ft. of living area. Interior features include oversized living room and dining room, den, open kitchen, family room with 10' ceilings, large master suite, and finished walkout basement. \$329,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



MANCHESTER - Are you looking for your own private hideaway just 15 minutes from Ann Arbor? This is it! Gorgeous 5-acre wooded parcel with many old growth oak trees. Home features great room with vaulted ceiling and wood stove, open kitchen, 2 first-floor bedrooms, master suite upstairs with large loft, and partially finished basement with view out windows. \$259,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



GRASS LAKE - This 4-bedroom, 3½-bath former builder's model home in Sandhill Estates is loaded with quality upgrades. Great design featuring two-story foyer, open great room, large kitchen with island, first-floor master suite with sitting area, and three-car garage. \$249,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



ANN ARBOR - This is not your typical Ann Arbor ranch. Backing to Pioneer woods, this home has been completely remodeled and expanded. Perfect for a single person or a couple, this home features a huge master suite overlooking the woods with upgraded bath, the backyard is all deck with sitting areas and complete privacy, finished basement, and more. \$239,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



DEXTER - Very sharp 2-bedroom, 2-bath condo in one of the area's sharpest looking complexes. These units were built with great flair inside and out. Features include raised ceilings throughout, great room with fireplace, convenient den, spacious kitchen, nice master suite, and walkout basement. \$229,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



CHELSEA - Charming early century 3-bedroom, 1-bath farmhouse on 2.5 peaceful acres on the east side of Chelsea. Quick access to I-94. Property is gorgeous and has the potential for horses. Home is loaded with old world charm with wood floors, oversized molding, large living room with fireplace, and family room with wood stove. \$199,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



LINCOLN SCHOOLS - Classic 4-bedroom, 1-bath turn-of-the-century farmhouse on 3 peaceful acres just minutes to I-94 and US-23. This home is in need of substantial updating but is structurally sound and loaded with charm and character. You will love the oversized moldings and hardwood floors. Large hip-roof barn. Perfect for the handyman. \$199,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



WARNER CREEK - This 3-bedroom, 2½-bath home in one of Saline's most desired neighborhoods is one of the best buys on the market today. Sharp home features living room and family room both with fireplaces, kitchen with eat-in area, formal dining room, nice master suite, and good sized kids bedrooms. \$189,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



OLD WEST SIDE - Walk to downtown Ann Arbor and UM stadium from this 2-bedroom, 1-bath ranch. Great lot featuring oversized, 2-tiered backyard. This nicely updated and maintained home features hardwood floors, good sized rooms, and loads of charm. \$159,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.

Matt Dejanovich has been a resident and realtor in Ann Arbor and its surrounding communities for over 20 years. In that time he has become one of the top producing agents at Real Estate One, the largest real estate brokerage in the state. Matt prides himself on providing personal, direct service to each and every one of his customers.

No assistants! Not one. When you hire Matt, you get Matt.

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SOLD
ANN ARBOR - Truly spectacular 5-bedroom, 5 1/2-bath custom-built home resting on an a stately 2.2 acre parcel just west of town. This home features every conceivable amenity including dream kitchen with maple cabinets and professional grade appliances, two-story family room, cherry trim and floors, luxury master suite, smart house technology, Gunite pool, 5-car garage space, and more. \$899,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



DIXBORO FARMS - Stunning 4-bedroom, 4-bath new construction on a gorgeous 2-acre estate lot in this popular NE Ann Arbor neighborhood. Quality features everywhere including all brick exterior, cherry kitchen with granite counters, extensive custom molding and trim, luxury first-floor master suite, and finished walkout basement. \$849,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



SALINE - Very special 5-bedroom, 5 1/2-bath custom-built home on a peaceful acre lot in York Township. This home has every feature and amenity you've been hoping for including all brick exterior, extensive landscaping, gourmet kitchen, paneled den, luxury first-floor master suite, nanny suite, and finished lower level with bar, rec room, and study. Wow! \$749,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



KING SCHOOL AREA - This 4-bedroom, 3 1/2-bath 1800s farmhouse rests on a gorgeous acre lot, just minutes to UM and hospitals. The setting is gorgeous featuring expansive lawn, mature gardens, fruit trees, and playhouse. The interior has undergone substantial renovation yet maintains its original charm. Additions with kitchen, family room, and master bedroom add a modern feel. \$569,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



CENTENNIAL PARK - Very sharp 4-bedroom, 2 1/2-bath, custom-built home in a Saline School's desired subs. This home features wonderful space with over 3,600 square feet of living area. Features include two-story foyer, dual staircases, open kitchen, large formal living and dining rooms, and luxurious master suite. Within walking distance to Harvest Elementary. \$449,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



TRAVIS POINTE - Very sharp 3-bedroom, 1 1/2-bath detached condo in the Crescents backing to wooded common area. This unit is just perfect featuring 3-car garage, open kitchen with granite counter tops, great room with 10' ceiling and fireplace, first-floor master suite with luxury bath, guest suite, study, and flex use bonus room. \$449,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



PINCKNEY - Gorgeous 4-bedroom, 3-bath custom-built home with 90 ft. of frontage on Highland Lake. This home is just paradise with panoramic views of lake and 11,000 acres of state owned land. The interior is loaded featuring oversized great room, maple kitchen with granite, and dream master suite. \$449,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



STONEBRIDGE - Custom-built 4-bedroom, 2 1/2-bath home on a quiet cul-de-sac in one of the area's most desired subs. Incredible lot borders trees and a stream with oversized patio and extensive landscaping. Gorgeous interior features large great room with vaulted ceiling, gourmet kitchen, spacious first-floor master suite, and finished basement. \$439,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



LAKE FOREST - Stunning 4-bedroom, 3 1/2-bath former builder's model home in one of Ann Arbor's most desired subs. Great lot with extensive landscaping, large deck, and patio. Interior features two-story family room, ample hardwood floors, den, kitchen with granite counter tops, nice master suite, and finished walkout basement with large rec space, study, and bath. \$379,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



NEW LISTING - YORK PLACE - Like-new 4-bedroom, 2 1/2-bath custom-built colonial in one of Saline's most desired subs. Great one acre lot on a cul-de-sac street with extensive landscaping and oversized patio. The interior is perfect and includes a two-story foyer, den, large kitchen with maple cabinets and granite counter tops, open family room, large formal dining, and luxury master suite. You will love it. \$369,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



SOLD
OLD WEST SIDE - Stunning 3 BR, 2 BA classic home walking distance to downtown Ann Arbor. This home has all the charm and character you've been hoping for plus extensive recent renovation. Features include incredible oversized backyard, all natural trim, extensive hardwood floors, and Custom kitchen with granite counters. \$359,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



YORK PLACE - Stunning 4-bedroom, 2 1/2-bath, two-story on a spacious acre lot in one of Saline's most desired subs. Great lot featuring extensive landscaping, oversized patio, and large backyard. Interior features include two-story foyer and family room, open kitchen with cherry cabinets, den, luxury master suite, and finished basement with great multi-use rec space. \$359,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



SOLD
HAWTHORNE RIDGE - Wonderful 4-bedroom, 3 1/2-bath colonial in one of Ann Arbor's most desired subs. Great exterior with extensive landscaping, large backyard, and view of trees. The interior features open kitchen with white appliances, family room with vaulted ceiling, formal living room and dining room, nice master suite, and professionally finished lower level. \$309,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



LINCOLN SCHOOLS - Enjoy your own 40-acre private get-away in this modest 3-bedroom, 1-bath home. The land is spectacular and features open meadows and dense woods. Potential for land split also exists. Perfect home for an outdoor enthusiast. Home is older and has lots of charm. \$299,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



SALINE - This custom-built 3-bedroom, 3-bath home rests on one of the most beautiful settings you will find anywhere. Incredible backyard view with fully developed pond including large deck, extensive patios, and gorgeous landscaping. The interior is sharp including great room with vaulted ceiling and two-story fireplace, spacious kitchen with Corian counters, first-floor master suite, and finished walkout basement. \$269,900 Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



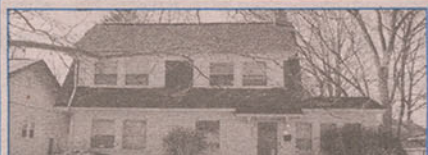
HOMETOWN VILLAGE - Enjoy incredible views of nature, woods, and a pond from this super sharp 3-bedroom, 2 1/2-bath home in one of Ann Arbor's best neighborhoods. Wonderful home with large open great room, spacious kitchen with extra high ceilings, large deck with incredible view, and a nice master suite with walk-in closet. \$259,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



YPSILANTI TOWNSHIP - Your own country oasis awaits you at this move-in condition 3-bedroom, 2 1/2-bath home. Enjoy the gorgeous park-like setting just minutes from everything. This home is perfect and features living room with vaulted ceiling, family room with fireplace, and nice master suite. Gorgeous!! \$229,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



SOLD
FORD LAKE FRONTAGE - Enjoy panoramic bluff top views of Ford Lake from this remodeled and expanded 3-bedroom colonial. Lake front living at its finest with multiple decks and patios and a gorgeous all-sports lake. Home features added family room with vaulted ceiling and hardwood floor, central kitchen, spacious master bedroom, and finished basement. \$229,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



U-M CAMPUS - Perfect student rental within close walking distance to the Athletic Campus and Central Campus. Six-bedroom single family home perfect for a group of students to share. This home has a great rental history and represents a great opportunity to own income property. \$225,000. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



BRIARWOOD AREA - Like-new 2-bedroom, 2-bath condo in this perfect location quick to shopping, U-M, and freeways. This unit is loaded with upgrades including cherry kitchen with granite countertops. Nice floor plan features open living room, spacious bedrooms, and flex-use family room/study. \$212,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



SALINE - Rare find. Country ranch on a peaceful acre lot on the north side of Saline, just minutes to I-94. Solid brick ranch in need of some cosmetic updates. Great starter home includes large backyard, 2 car garage, living room, den, and full basement. \$149,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



SALINE - Immaculate 2-bedroom, 2-bath condo in Park Place. Enjoy this peaceful condo complex just a short walk to downtown Saline. This unit is in perfect, move-in condition and features great room with vaulted ceiling, open kitchen, flex-use first-floor bedroom, second-floor master bedroom loft, 1 1/2-car attached garage, and full basement. Great unit. \$139,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



SOLD
NE ANN ARBOR - Rare find!! Three-bedroom, 1-bath brick ranch, in need of some cosmetic updating, on a peaceful 1 1/4 acre lot just minutes from town. Great setting on a very quiet country road. Home has solid bones with a large living room, kitchen with eating area, and three good sized bedrooms. \$139,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



SALINE - Great 2-bedroom, 1 1/2-bath condo in perfect move-in condition. This unit has a great set of features and amenities. The highlights include cherry kitchen, spacious living room, spacious master suite with walk-in closet, and full basement. \$125,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



SNOW REMOVAL

City of Ann Arbor

STREETS

Where there is light snow or ice on road surfaces, the City's Public Services Area clears over 98 miles of high volume streets, bridges, intersections with stop signs or traffic signals, and streets with curves. De-icing materials are applied to provide better traction for vehicles to help prevent accidents at high-risk locations. The street clearing process takes about five hours and may be repeated as needed. After the major and high-risk streets are cleared, City crews de-ice the local streets in the City, which requires ten to twelve hours.

When a snowfall of four inches or more occurs, street snow plowing begins and the City Administrator may declare that a "snow emergency" is in effect. Plowing is done on all public streets and City-owned property; however, all schools and privately owned areas provide for their own de-icing and plowing. Citizens are advised to remove cars from curbside parking to allow for effective street plowing.

When a "snow emergency" is in effect, illegally parked vehicles may be ticketed and towed.

The City snow desk is staffed when a snow emergency is in effect. The snow desk tracks the location of plows throughout the City and provides information to the public about the plowing progress. You may reach the snow desk at 794-6367.

*** On days having odd-numbered dates, vehicles are prohibited from parking on the side of the street having even-numbered street addresses—**in order to allow plows to clear the even-numbered side of the street. Parking is permitted on the side of the street with odd-numbered addresses in legal spaces.

*** On days having even-numbered dates, vehicles are prohibited from parking on the street having odd-numbered street addresses—**in order to allow plows to clear the odd-numbered side of the street. Parking is permitted on the side of the street with even-numbered addresses in legal spaces.

SIDEWALKS

When there is a snow event in Ann Arbor, the City depends on its citizens to be helpful, responsible, and aware of the need to remove all snow and ice from the public sidewalks including walks and ramps leading to a cross walk.

During the winter months, many Ann Arbor residents (including children walking to school and the physically challenged) need to be able to safely use the public sidewalks. This means that all snow and ice should be removed from the entire constructed width enabling people of all ages and physical conditions to have access to clean pedestrian walkways. City council

has passed an ordinance regarding snow removal (violations can result in fines up to \$500), but reminds you that sidewalk snow removal is simply a combination of courtesy and caring toward all those who need to use the public sidewalks.

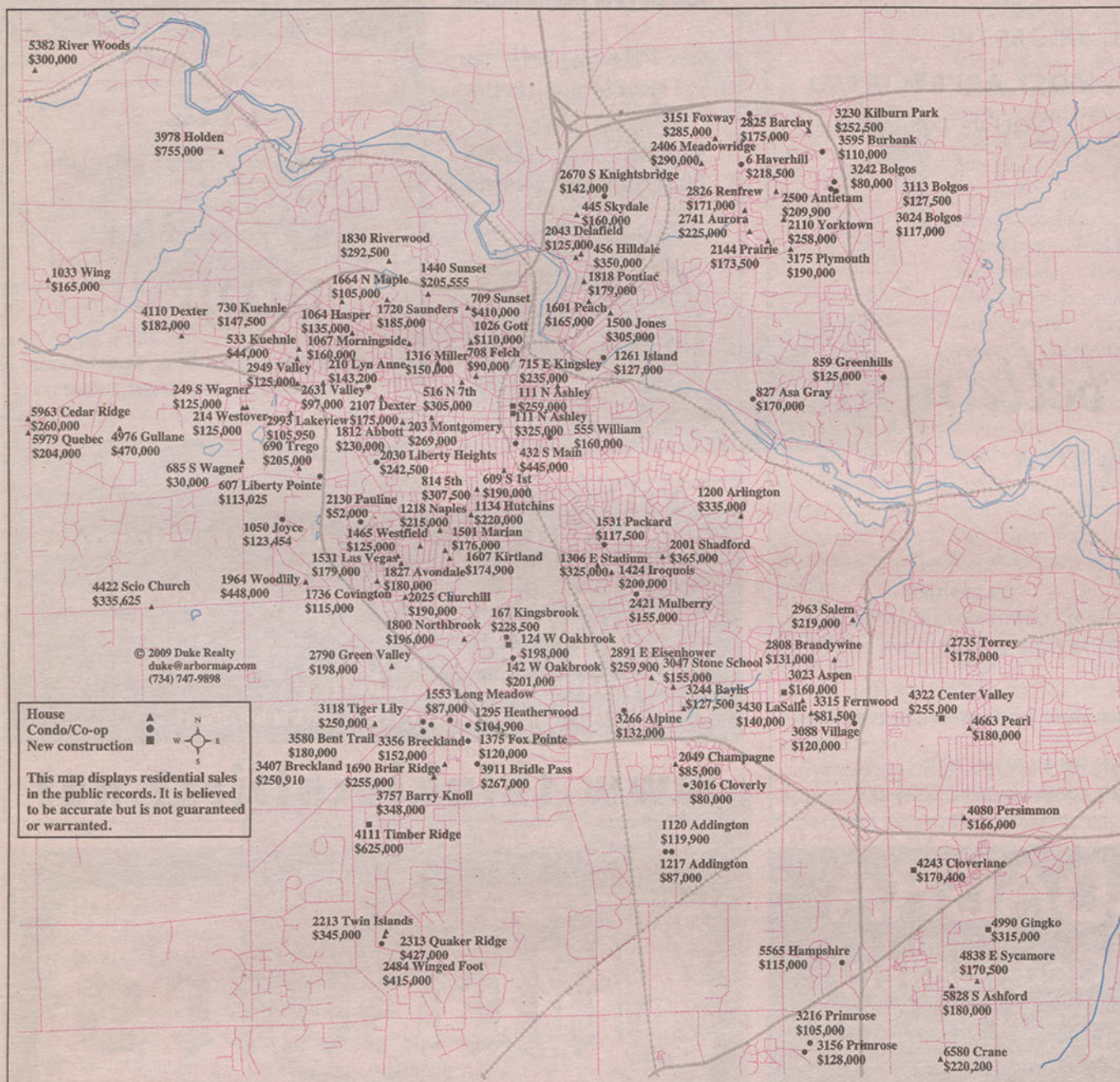
The City reminds owners or occupants of non-residentially zoned properties that all snow and ice which has accumulated on the adjacent public sidewalk prior to 6am must be removed by noon. Immediately after the accumulation of ice on such a sidewalk it must be treated with sand, salt or other substance to prevent it from being slippery. Within 24 hours after the end of each accumulation of snow greater than 1 inch, the owner or occupant of every residentially zoned property must remove the accumulation from the adjacent public sidewalk. Remember, accumulation can occur from any source including precipitation and drifting, and the term "sidewalk" includes adjacent walks and ramps leading to crosswalks, typically at corners. Ice must be treated as mentioned above and removed within 24 hours after accumulation. Last but certainly not least, please exercise caution and care when shoveling, especially during extreme cold.

Best Wishes for a Safe and Happy Winter Season from the City of Ann Arbor

Please save for reference throughout the snow months:

Revised November 2009

OCTOBER 2009 HOME SALES



The typical Ann Arbor home buyer paid 10 percent less per square foot of floor space in the first ten months of 2009 compared to the same period in 2008, and 15 percent less than in 2007. The accompanying graph shows the median selling price per square foot of single-family homes in Ann Arbor; it's derived from the public records of 3,095 sales in the first ten months of 2005, 2007, 2008, and 2009.

The other chart tracks average selling prices for houses in different size

ranges. It shows that the smallest homes—those less than 1,000 square feet—took the worst beating this year. Their prices fell from \$174 per square foot to \$152—a loss of 13 percent. Still, their total loss since 2005 wasn't far out of line—at 27 percent, it barely exceeded the city's average 26 percent decline.

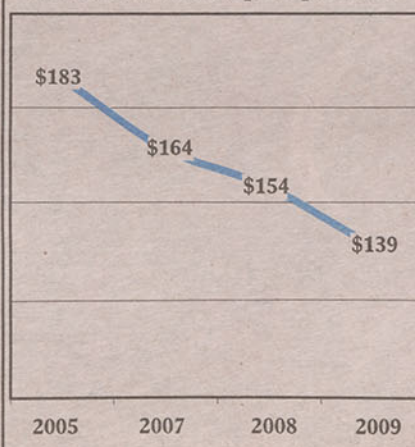
The biggest homes, those with 3,000 square feet or more, actually enjoyed a small rebound this year, from \$183 per square foot to \$190—an increase of

4 percent. That reduced their cumulative loss since 2005 to a relatively modest 11 percent. That's an impressive and healthy departure from the overall trend in the city, but because the biggest homes are a relatively small segment of the market, they had little impact on the average.

—Kevin Duke

January - October	2008			2009			
Single-Family Homes by Square Feet	Sales #	Average Price	Average \$ Per Ft	Sales #	Average Price	Average \$ Per Ft	2008 vs 2009 Change Per Foot
600-999	100	\$154,000	\$174	97	\$135,000	\$152	-13%
1,000-1,249	139	\$187,000	\$167	124	\$168,000	\$148	-11%
1,250-1,499	97	\$219,000	\$160	99	\$188,000	\$139	-13%
1,500-1,749	79	\$263,000	\$162	86	\$229,000	\$142	-12%
1,750-1,999	90	\$266,000	\$141	81	\$261,000	\$139	-1%
2,000-2,499	84	\$310,000	\$140	79	\$294,000	\$133	-5%
2,500-2,999	39	\$415,000	\$155	41	\$368,000	\$138	-11%
3,000+	32	\$660,000	\$183	34	\$699,000	\$190	4%
All Ann Arbor	660	\$258,000	\$159	641	\$244,000	\$145	-9%

Median Selling Prices for Single-Family Homes in Ann Arbor per Square Foot



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\$68 stays in local economy

Spend \$100 at a non-local business
\$43 stays in local economy

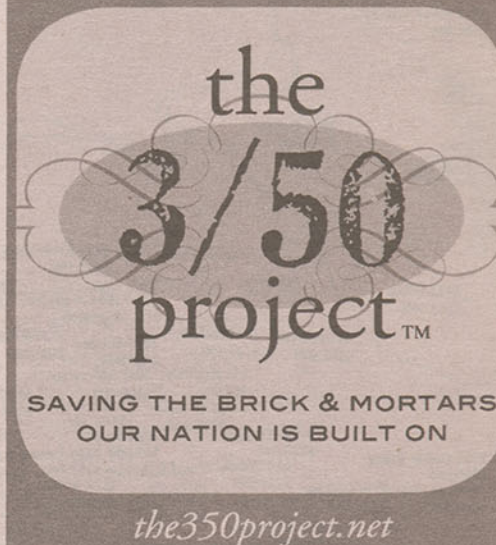
Spend \$100 at an on-line business
\$0 stays in local economy



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- **CREATE** great places to work
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MarketplaceChanges

by Tony McReynolds & Sally Mitani

Burger Throwdown on Plymouth Rd.

Entrepreneurs take on Wendy's—and each other.

With its bright mustard- and ketchup-colored burger-shaped logo and self-congratulatory name, **Famous Hamburger** projects a cheery, in-your-face chutzpah. It's no act: the tiny chain opened its fourth store in October in the Courtyard Shops at North Campus Plaza, just a few steps away from Wendy's.

As burgers go, this is slow food. "At Wendy's you can get a burger in a minute," says Famous manager Mike Haidar. "Here it takes eight, ten, twelve minutes to cook your burger." The family-run chain's other stores are in Dearborn, Allen Park, and Los Angeles—but it got its start in, of all places, Beirut.

Mike says his Lebanese-born grandfather, Hussein Hider (same name, different transliteration), grew up in this country eating White Castles. In the late 1960s he returned to Beirut to open the Middle East's first burger joint, which became Famous Hamburger.

Fleeing Lebanon's civil war, the family returned to the United States in the mid-1970s. Hussein Hider died a few years ago, but Famous continues under the leadership of Mike's uncle, Feisal "Phil" Hider.

It was Mike who wanted to open an Ann Arbor branch. "I went to school here fifteen years ago and have always loved Ann Arbor," he says. He majored in biology at the U-M and planned to go to med school, but his father's illness forced him to take over another family business: a bunch of Detroit-area service stations. Now he's finally back in town with Famous.

The nineteen burgers on the menu are distinguished mostly by their toppings—all but one begin with the same one-third-pound patty (the exception is a gargantuan one-pound burger, so big that if you eat all of it you get your photo on the wall and website). Though the burgers, which start at around \$3.50, are by far the best-selling item, the menu also features wraps and some Middle Eastern favorites, like hummus and *fattoush*. All the meat is halal (prepared according to Islamic law), and the chicken burgers are made of fresh, unprocessed chicken.

Famous Hamburger seats sixty inside, with table service. Hider and Haidar have also added a side porch with hookahs that will seat twenty-four. It will open as soon as the plastic shades and heaters arrive.



J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Feisal "Phil" Hider's father founded Famous Hamburger in Beirut. Now Phil's nephew, Mike (right, above), has opened an Ann Arbor outpost. Mo Farha (below) opened Great Plains Burger Company just up the street. Though the two burger places signed leases within five days of each other, neither was aware of the other's existence until it was too late to back out.



J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Famous Hamburger, 1739 Plymouth. (Courtyard Shops at North Campus Plaza). 369-3502. Sun.-Thurs. 10 a.m.-midnight, Fri. & Sat. 10 a.m.-3 a.m. www.famoushamburger.com

A block east on Plymouth, in Upland Green, Great Plains Burger Company opened within days of Famous. Not only that, says Great Plains owner-manager Mo Farha, "we signed our leases within five days of each other." While both knew they'd be up against Wendy's, neither of the independently owned businesses had any idea of the other's existence until it was too late to back out. Both are scrupulously polite about the unexpected rivalry, while insisting that their products are so unique that there's really no competition. While Famous has table service and a wide array of choices other than burgers, Great Plains is stripped down to the absolute pure minimum: burger, fries, and shake or Coke, ordered at the counter.

The one-third-pound burger, served on a Zingerman's bun, comes with options like sautéed mushrooms, grilled onions, and five kinds of cheese for \$4.50. The vanilla, chocolate, and strawberry shakes are made fresh with antibiotic- and hormone-free dairy products. Behind the counter in the open kitchen is the biggest visual attraction: the hand-operated potato

cutting machine. Right before your eyes, a worker turns big Russet Burbank spuds into skinny skin-on fries. They're slightly waxier and meatier than frozen processed product.

If you don't want a burger, Farha says there's a secret menu, which at the moment includes hot dogs and a grilled cheese sandwich. He'll be serving salmon burgers during Lent and is looking into turkey burgers.

Farha, forty-three, is also a U-M grad. In his student days he started LA's Club on State Street (where Rod's Diner is now), which also specialized in burgers and shakes. He owns Great Plains with several other investors and hopes to open other locations eventually.

Great Plains Burger Company, 1771 Plymouth (Upland Green). 769-6900. Daily 10:30 a.m.-10:30 p.m. www.greatplainsburger.com

T-shirt Flagship

Underground Printing emerges.

In late October, **Underground Printing** moved across the street and up the block to a bigger location next to Good Time Charley's on South University. How much bigger? Co-owner Ryan Gregg put it this way: "Our new sign is bigger than our old store," which measured a paltry 250 square feet. At 4,000 square feet, Gregg and business partner Rishi Narayan finally have the flagship store they have wanted for years.

Gregg and Narayan, both twenty-eight, founded their custom screen-printed and embroidered apparel company back in 2001, when they were both sophomores at the U-M. "We were very active in school, we belonged to a lot of groups, and we were always entrepreneurial," Gregg recalls. When the two friends realized that all the groups they belonged to needed custom T-shirts, they saw opportunity—especially after a tow truck operator who came to Na-

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Marketplace Changes

ryan's aid after his car broke down mentioned that he used to print T-shirts and still had his equipment in a pole barn in Cadillac. Gregg says he thought about all those campus groups—"and I thought: I bet we could sell a lot of T-shirts!"

They bought the guy's equipment, moved it to Whitmore Lake, and started selling T-shirts to anyone who needed them, which turned out to be a lot of people.

Within months the partners had more business than they could handle and hired Underground Printing in Chelsea (which really was underground, in a basement) to make the shirts while they turned their attention entirely to sales. By the end of 2003, Gregg and Narayan's orders were such a big part of Underground Printing's business that it seemed only logical for them to buy the company.

They moved the printing side of the business to a 33,000-square-foot facility in Ann Arbor in 2004 and opened the small retail space on South U in 2005. Since then they've opened ten more stores in other college towns and expanded from T-shirts into all kinds of printed apparel and accessories, like hoodies, polo shirts, jerseys, sweats, pens, hats, Frisbees, and magnets.

Though their client list has expanded to include local businesses like Zingerman's, Conor O'Neill's, and Running Fit, the campus remains the heart of their enterprise. "We know the market, we enjoy it, and you can't beat the lifestyle," Gregg says. "There's so many people around, and there's always something going on."

Underground Printing, 1114 South University. 929-6648. Mon.-Sat., 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. www.undergroundshirts.com

Underground Printing, 1114 South University. 929-6648. Mon.-Sat., 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. www.undergroundshirts.com

Flash with a Heart of Denim

Pitaya lands
on State.

Pitaya, the new women's clothing store in half of the former Shaman Drum (the half that was once Wild's Menswear, if you go back that far), hit the ground running. The second week it was open, the staff was unpacking boxes of



J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Ryan Gregg and partner Rishi Narayan started selling T-shirts in 2001 as U-M sophomores. After quietly building a chain of eleven stores, they've opened a 4,000-square-foot flagship on South U.

dresses trucked over from its Royal Oak branch to restock already depleted racks and shelves.

The store is a kaleidoscope of short skirts, denim, jersey, dark plaids, sequins, shiny satin, and large zippers, all at bargain prices. "It's rare that we have anything over sixty-nine dollars," says Michael Mazor, owner of the sixteen-store chain, strategically placed in college towns and hip urban settings ("never in malls," Mazor says, pronouncing the word with distaste). His perennial best-seller: a \$12 slinky cotton jersey shirt, designed by Mazor and manufactured in the United States for Pitaya.

Mazor is in town for a month or two to oversee the opening, along with a small entourage including his art director and a manager from the Louisville store who's training the staff.

Mazor began importing ethnic clothing from Guatemala to finance his Latin American travels and opened his first store in Bloomington, Indiana, in the early 1990s. He doesn't do as much design anymore and has recently hired a buyer, forcing him to relinquish some artistic control:



J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Michael Mazor started importing clothing from Guatemala to finance his travels in Latin America. Now he's got sixteen Pitaya stores around the country.

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"I'm replaceable as a designer, but I'm not replaceable as an administrator," he says, trying to sound as if he likes it that way.

Most Pitaya stores are in the Midwest, and Mazor mainly manages them by phone and Internet. He divides his time among places he likes: Indianapolis (where the company is headquartered), Seattle (where there is a store), and Santa Monica, California (where there's not).

Mazor says he's wanted to be in Ann Arbor for years but only if he could be on this particular block of State Street. In fact, he says he contacted Shaman Drum before it closed "because, well, you know, the way independent bookstores are going under these days. Not that I was trying to be a vulture or anything," Mazor says, sounding slightly uncomfortable about replacing the type of business that provides the retail atmosphere that allows his stores to thrive.

Mazor has no plans at the moment for other stores. In fact, his next move may be to close his store in Chicago's Wicker Park neighborhood. "It's a dog," he admits. "My father said one of these days I was going to make a mistake, and that might be it."

Pitaya, 315 S. State. 761-4444. Mon.-Sat. 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.-7 p.m. www.pitayaonline.com

Briefly Noted

"I would like to think of people walking or biking up to my restaurant," says Sylvia Nolasco-Rivers, who in late November opened Pilar's Tamales in the space on West Liberty vacated when Tienda la Libertad moved to a larger spot a few doors down. It's not just that biking and walking are green—she's worried about the parking. There isn't much, and she shares it with two other takeout businesses that are also likely to be busy at lunch and dinner: Chan's Garden and Faz's Hello Pizza. Her worries are probably unfounded. There's plenty of parking at Tienda, the warehouses behind the minimall, and, at least for now, at the empty Fresh Seasons Market next door (see Closings).

Nolasco-Rivers has been marketing her tamales since 2000 by cart, by catering, and briefly at a cafe on South State. The business is named after her aunt Pilar Garay, who came to Ann Arbor in the early eighties seeking asylum from El Salvador's civil war.

Pilar's Tamales, not quite open at press time, will feature, of course, her ample Salvadoran tamales, which—along with a spicy cabbage salad, *casamiento* (organic beans and rice), and hibiscus tea—is a favorite lunch at her cart at the Farmers' Market. Another Salvadoran specialty is the pupusa, a corn tortilla filled with cheese and other ingredients and grilled. "I call it a Salvadoran pizza," Nolasco-Rivers says.

Though she can seat a small number of diners, her space is designed mainly for carryout. She'll open at 7 a.m., when she will be serving a slightly sweet Salvadoran breakfast bread, topped with feta cheese and sesame seeds, and locally roasted Roos coffee. And she'll of-

fer takeout "family meals"—generously portioned meals for six, for \$60. Will she still be operating her cart at the Farmers' Market, too? "Oh heck, yes. I couldn't let those people down. They expect me to be there. That won't change at all."

Pilar's Tamales, 2261 W. Liberty. 829-9978. Mon.-Sat. 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Closed Sun. www.pilarscatering.com

Sheng Han's parents bought him his first computer when he was nine years old, and he promptly tore it apart. Then he put it back together. "I took apart every toy and game they ever gave me, from cars to computers," Han says—and putting them back together helped him stay on his parents' good side.

Han opened Core Components on Washtenaw near Arborland in early October in the hope that other people will let him tear their computers apart and put them back together, too. Han, thirty-four, was born in Detroit, but his family moved to Ann Arbor when he was two, and he's lived here ever since. He never had any formal computer training, but his natural aptitude made going into information technology a no-brainer. He's been working in IT in some capacity since the early 1990s, first with Borders and most recently at the U-M Medical School, where he still works full time while getting his new business off the ground.

Han does computer upgrades and optimization and services all makes and models. But if he had his choice, he'd rather build computers from the ground up. He estimates his custom-built computers cost about 15 percent more than an equivalent brand-name machine, but he thinks that in the long run, his customers get a lot more for their money.

"The number one thing is, I use all standard retail components," he says. "Companies like Dell or Hewlett-Packard use proprietary components, so if something goes wrong, you need to buy the part from Dell. With mine you can get a replacement part anywhere."

Han also sells every part he installs—so customers can buy every core component they need to build their own computers. "One guy came in and asked specifically, if he bought all the parts, how much would I charge him to put it together?" Han says. He told him it would cost more than if the guy either put it together himself, or had Han custom-build it from scratch. "He wound up coming back, and we built the computer together."

Core Computers, 3354 Washtenaw. 929-5687. Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Sat. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Closed Sun. www.corecomponentspc.com

Kerry Thompson says you can find a lot of good Coney Island hot dogs around town, but "nobody in Ann Arbor I know of offers the Vienna hot dog anymore." So in September Kerry and his younger brother, Kasey, opened Wise Guys in the former Bev's Caribbean Kitchen on Packard. They carry both Chicago's legendary Vienna



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Marketplace Changes

Beef dogs and Nathan's Famous all-beef hot dogs from New York. Both are served in a steamed, poppy seed Gonnella roll, a hot dog bun made in Chicago and beloved by Windy City hot dog aficionados.

Kerry says their best seller is the Original Chicago Dog, a one-sixth-pound hot dog "dragged through the garden." That means "it has your nuclear relish—which is your bright green relish—tomato slices, a giant tomato spear, chopped onions, and sport peppers." He pauses to consider the ingredients, then laughs. "I should really be worried about food costs, but I'm not right now. It's really about getting the right food in there." Other offerings include the Ann Arbor Dog (a quarter-pound skinless Nathan's frank) and the New York Reuben Dog (a Nathan's frank smothered with sauerkraut and Swiss cheese). Or you can create your own hot dog by piling on the toppings of your choice.

Born and raised in suburban Detroit, the brothers never lived in Chicago, and Kerry says that makes some customers wonder if they really know what they're doing. "I can't tell you how many people who lived in Chicago come in and say, 'I'll tell you if it's authentic.' You get a little worried because they give you that look, like, 'Yeah right—you're not from there, you don't know.' And they're shocked. They bite into it, and they go, 'Yep, that's a Gonnella roll,' or 'Yeah, that's a Vienna dog.' I'm proud of that because I know they know we have the real thing."

The place is small, barely 300 square feet, so everything's carryout. And if you do want to drop by, there's not much of a window of opportunity. "Being students, we're kind of limited in the hours department right now," Kerry admits.

Wise Guys, 1232 Packard. 681-0038. Thurs. 4 p.m.-9 p.m., Fri., Sat. 11 a.m.-midnight. Closed Sun.-Wed. www.wiseguysannarbor.com

Bob Gregor has moved his Singer Sewing Shoppe from Jackson Road to a much larger location on South Maple, across the street from Kroger. He'll use the added space to host sewing and quilting classes that bring in customers for the new and restored sewing machines that he sells.

Gregor grew up in the sewing machine business—his father owned two stores on the west side of the state, and he's had this shop for thirteen years. Despite the name, he's not tied to the Singer brand anymore; he also sells Juki machines. For years, he says, Juki has been making most Singer machines anyway. Singer, says Gregor, closed its last factory a few years ago, around the time it was taken private and combined with Husqvarna Viking and Pfaff into a company called SVP Worldwide.

In the last fifteen years, the sewing machine industry has been enlivened and revolutionized by computers. In 1995, Singer came out with a machine that could be hooked up to your home computer to sew computer-generated designs. "Today,

it's wireless, so you can have a computer in one room and a sewing machine in the other," says Gregor. "You can scan in a photo, and the machine will embroider it." He sells sewing machines, old and new, for \$100 to \$5,000.

Singer Sewing Shoppe, 605 S. Maple. 332-7311. Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Closed Sun. www.singersewingshoppe.com

When empty storefronts go begging at Briarwood this time of year, the shopping center offers deals on short-term leases to stores that specialize in seasonal merchandise. "It adds interest to the mall and keeps the center full," says general manager Ida Hendrix.

Two stores took advantage of the opportunity to sign leases that run through early 2010. Woodland Creek took the spot near Sears that's been vacant since the Bachrach menswear store went belly-up last summer. The Traverse City company specializes in rustic furniture and décor made from exotic woods from around the world—its flagship store claims to be the largest rustic and cabin furniture store in the country. An employee says if the Briarwood store does well over the holidays, there's a chance it'll stick around at least a little while longer.

York Country Designs is also in the Sears corridor, and it, too, specializes in home décor (though not furniture). Founded in Athens, Michigan, more than twenty years ago, it has only four full-time locations, in Adrian, Jackson, Okemos, and Midland. The company opens a few seasonal stores each year, but manager Niki Jarret says this is the first time it's opened one in Briarwood. This location carries only holiday items like decorations, tree ornaments, cards, and gift bags. But like Woodland Creek, Jarret says it's possible York Country Designs will re-up for a longer lease. "It's kind of touch and go. If we do well, we might."

Briarwood also has two new long-term tenants. The Walking Company, next to Macy's, sells ECCO, Mephisto, Ariat, Earth shoes, and other brands. Windsor in the JCPenney wing sells apparel and accessories "that fit the life and work styles of today's junior and contemporary woman." For that, read "high school"—a lot of the California company's dresses are for homecoming or prom.

Woodland Creek, 761-1472. York Country Designs, 913-0752. The Walking Company, 997-9169. Windsor, 864-0232. Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Hours extended for holiday shopping.

Closings

"What has affected us most over the years is the construction. Liberty or Stadium has been worked on for five out of the last six summers, and summer is our season," says Ben Stahl, who with his wife, Lynda, bought Fresh Seasons Market (then called Coleman's 4 Seasons) in 1994. The Stahls' lease came to an end this

fall, and with the proliferation of west-side boutique groceries in the last five years, they decided to close rather than renew. With the just-in-time-for-Thanksgiving opening of Aldi, the jockeying for position is probably not going to be resolved anytime soon.

The Stahls, in their early sixties, also admit they haven't quite been able to nail the tastes and habits of younger customers. "It's been a pretty tough ride for the last couple of years," says Ben. "We're real solid with customers of our own generation." He and Lynda are well-traveled "foodies," he says, and they like high-quality but fairly unprocessed ingredients. They've had a harder time keying into customers who want more prepared foods and ready-to-eat meals.

The customer drain began as far back as 2004, when Whole Foods built its huge new store on Washtenaw and Trader Joe's took over Whole Foods' old space at Lamp Post Plaza. "What happens is Whole Foods is attractive to our high-end customers, Trader Joe's to our low end," says Ben. "We see a lot of people bringing in Trader Joe's bags."

Earlier this year they thought they had found a buyer for the business. "They were excited about it, we were excited about it, but then financing became a problem, and it dragged out," Ben says. The lease was up, and landlord Gary Colemansmith was offering only a five-year renewal. Colemansmith, one of the Coleman farm family, opened the store in 1986. (Coleman combined his name with that of his partner, Mark Smith, and moved to Washington state.) The Stahls made a brief attempt to find another location to buy them a little more time to make a transition to new owners, but with so many parties involved, Ben says, "it all got sticky."

Long John Silver's, which shared space with Kentucky Fried Chicken on West Stadium, closed in September. "I don't know why. I'm just a shift manager," said the young man at the KFC counter. KFC now occupies the whole space. Both chains are owned by the conglomerate Yum! Brands, and the two have dual franchise arrangements in many cities. A media contact at LJS did not get back to us about why this particular partnership closed. A few informal inquiries among fast food aficionados suggests that the chicken was outselling the fish by a long margin.

When Café Du Jour shut its doors in mid-October, the only explanation was a sign on the door that said the restaurant had closed due to the bad economy. Owner Dan Massey, who bought the restaurant from Tiffany Lynn Salsini in early 2008, was unavailable for comment.

Got a retail or restaurant change? Send email to sallymitani@gmail.com or tonymcreynolds@tds.net or leave voice-mail at 769-3175, ext. 309.

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In response to readers' inquiries about a "tasteful" gift for food loving family and friends on their holiday shopping lists, *Times* investigators recently asked Mo Frechette, co-managing partner at Zingerman's Mail Order, for his favorite, flavorful gifts to ship coast to coast this holiday season. In this exclusive story, Mo revealed to *Times* reporters his top four picks:

1) Christmas Cookie Club—Local author Ann Pearlman (*The Christmas Cookie Club*) teams up with Zingerman's Bakehouse to create The Christmas Cookie Club Collection featuring Molasses-Ginger Crisps and Pecan Butter Balls (using recipes from the novel) and Zingerman's own Chocolate Mint Shortbread. These specially packaged cookies and the book make a "novel" gift idea!

2) Bread of the Month Club—Zingerman's has been called "Best Mail Order Bread" by *Fortune* magazine. Available in 1, 2 or 3 loaf memberships, in 3 or 6 month installments.

3) Gelato by Mail—Hand-mixed traditional Italian ice-cream made in small batches and shipped coast to coast for the holiday. Shipped directly from Zingerman's Creamery!

3) The Bacon Club—This exclusive collection of Zingerman's favorite, traditionally made bacons was declared a "Fantastic gift!" by celebrity chef Bobby Flay. Available in 3 or 6 month installments. Add a copy of *Zingerman's Guide to Good Bacon*, the first in-depth book on America's favorite fat. Featuring loads of delicious, well-tested recipes, including bacon fat mayonnaise. Now also available in a special Pigskin Collector's Edition! On sale at all Zingerman's locations.



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Special for *Times* readers: pre-order a gift basket or book a catering event while at this party and receive 10% off!

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Don't forget the Panettone and Stollen! Details at www.zingermansbakehouse.com

Limited Edition Holiday Blend from Local Roaster Showing Up at Holiday Parties

Due to popular demand, Zingerman's Coffee Company has created a new, exclusive holiday blend that sources say is perfect to serve after a great holiday feast (with pie from the Bakehouse) or to enjoy on its own as a winter pick-me-up. Reports also confirm that it makes a great gift for the hard-to-shop-for caffeine lovers on holiday lists. Available at Zingerman's Coffee Company, Deli, Bakehouse and Roadhouse. Ship it coast-to-coast at www.zingermans.com.

Check out the Coffee Company's new location at 3723 Plaza Dr.!



Restaurant Reviews

Seafood Trio

The Gandy Dancer, Zingerman's Roadhouse, and Real Seafood Company

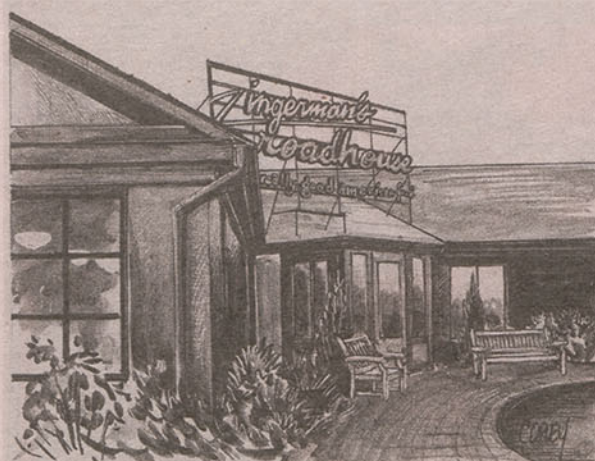
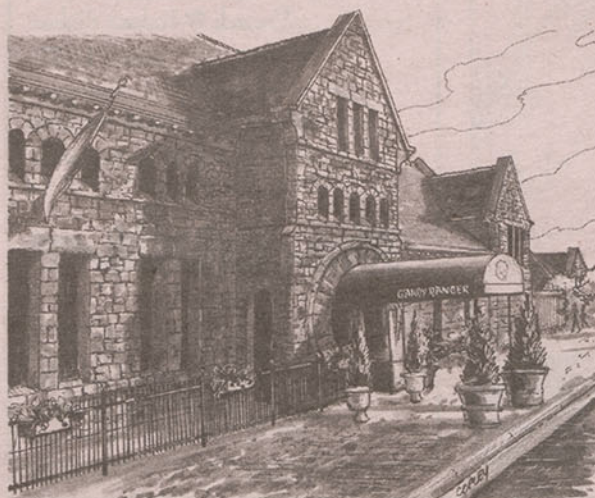
When I moved to Ann Arbor from the East Coast ten years ago, seafood withdrawal was my only fear. From cherrystone clams on the half-shell to Chinese steamed carp, from Mediterranean seafood stews to mackerel sashimi, from smoked Lake Superior whitefish to pickled herring, I've rarely met a fish or shellfish I haven't loved.

How would love survive? Happily, Ann Arbor's restaurateurs had the answer. When I have a hankering for good seafood, the question is not whether, but where. While it seems like there's salmon on every menu and two sushi bars in every strip mall, I look first to three outposts of fabled dining empires—the Gandy Dancer (Muer Seafood Restaurants), Real Seafood Co. (Main Street Ventures), and Zingerman's Roadhouse.

The Gandy Dancer proves the old adage, "location, location, location." The romance of the rails, the stone and woodwork, and the historical authenticity of the 1886 train station combine to make this Ann Arbor's top destination restaurant. Regardless of cuisine, this would be a prime setting for those special times when the Platinum Card comes out to play.

The Gandy Dancer's kitchen is more than a match for diners' destination expectations, with lavish offerings, more-than-adequate execution, and the staid predictability of a top-tier steakhouse. Service also matches fine steakhouse standards, with knowledgeable staff gently nudging us towards overindulgence. At one family celebration we were seduced into a shellfish appetizer orgy—and how we loved the Diamond Jim Brady decadence of it all. Still, that leads precisely to my quibble with the menu: most preparations are just a bit too over-the-top in Gay Nineties / Robber Baron-style. Rich toppings are unavoidable. Are they dressing the sea critters because they think we can't cope with them au naturel, or is the ornamentation just nice for their bottom line?

All that said, Dynamite Scallops were an impressive starter, a spicy, Asian-tinged retake on coquilles St. Jacques. A lunch-time seafood trio delivered a small, perfectly grilled and sauced piece of salmon, a competent crab cake (though I could have done without the corn salsa topping), and unremarkable macadamia-crusted fried shrimp. For purists there's Charley's Bucket, sporting a whole Maine lobster, Dungeness crab, mussels, redskin potatoes, and corn, all properly steamed. The day's featured fresh fish (the list barely changes) can also be prepared simply—



grilled, broiled, or sautéed. My heart belongs to those, and also to traditional items like fisherman's stews, which enhance the fundamental brininess of seafood. So, when that classic French seafood stew, bouillabaisse, appeared as a special some time back, I couldn't resist.

Now, the Mediterranean has as many fish stews as it has fishing villages, and the Mediterranean fisher folk who emigrated here brought all their stew-making skills with them. The West Coast has Italian-influenced cioppino, usually heavy on tomatoes and often a bit brassy and acidic. Bouillabaisse, in balanced,

French style, should be light on the tomatoes, with a rich, saffron-perfumed fish broth. Except in Ann Arbor. Gandy Dancer's bouillabaisse had a thick tomato sauce chunky with fennel stalks and no discernible saffron. Tasty? You bet, but I'd peg it as cioppino in a blind tasting. Meanwhile, I'd swear that Real Seafood Company's cioppino is a bouillabaisse. Go figure!

Sometimes a name does say it all. Real Seafood Company is my first thought when I yearn for American-style fish. The love affair started many years back, at its annual Oyster and Beer Festival. That one-evening event proved I wouldn't be seafood-starved in my new hometown. You can consume forty dollars' worth of raw shellfish and twenty dollars in beer, so the salad, entree, and dessert are essentially on the house at this \$59.95 event (held the first Wednesday in October).

It's really, really hard for me to pass up Real Seafood's cioppino. Fully flavored with a rich seafood stock and lots of saffron, the big bowl is a nearly bottomless pit of clams, mussels, crab leg, shrimp, an occasional scallop, at least two finny fish (typically salmon and swordfish), and red-skin potatoes. They float grilled, cheese-covered toast on top, reinforcing the bouillabaisse connection. This is my annual birthday treat, thanks to Main Street Ventures' birthday special—essentially, free food for the birthday child (bring at least one companion and proof of age).

Another favorite, the Waterman's He-Stew, is an enormous bowl of heavy cream and oysters, seasoned with bacon, onions, celery, and a pinch of saffron. Can that possibly be bad? Just don't make the (otherwise delightful) mistake of trying to consume full orders of both this and the cioppino at one sitting.

My wife generally orders simply grilled fish, and it's always done nicely. Her swordfish special was a thick, generous portion, grilled just right, but juices from the steamed spinach diluted the tasty grapefruit beurre



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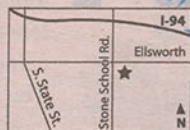
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Restaurant Reviews

blanc. Besides the usual broiled, grilled, and blackened options for the day's fresh catch, you can have it steamed Shanghai-style for a small charge, a nice change of pace. Overall, Real Seafood does a better job than Gandy Dancer of dressing up its fish without obscuring it.

Due to my cioppino addiction, I rarely choose the other menu classics or specialties. However, the grilled Mediterranean-style whole striped bass is another story. Yes, this is a whole, bone-in fish, head and eyes included. Don't be squeamish—if you're OK with a rack of ribs or peel-and-eat shrimp, maybe it's time for dissect-and-eat fish. The first time I tried this, they got it spot on, skin nicely charred, aromatic with Mediterranean herbs, succulent inside. When I ordered it again more recently, a perfectly cooked interior just managed to make up for not-quite-crispy skin and a mere smattering of herbs. It was still good enough that it'll get another chance.

We usually dine out with our five-year-old son, and he nearly polished off a generous, kids-menu portion of fish and chips. With the thick hunk of fresh cod freshly battered and flavorful and the chips beautifully done, it was adult quality.

Recently, Real Seafood has been featuring a 1¼-pound \$19.95 Maine lobster special. That's a very good price, though it's a bit odd to see a six-foot-tall lobster pacing Main Street to promote the deal. Another recession-buster is their 11:30 a.m.–8 p.m. happy hour menu (that's a loooong hour!), with raw oysters at a dollar a pop and steamed mussels (among other dishes) for \$5.

Of the three establishments, Zingerman's Roadhouse is closest to my heart—a onetime Bill Knapp's diner transformed into an outpost of downtown funkiness. Outside, a landmark aluminum, teapot-shaped travel trailer serves the drive-up trade, an eye-popping neon sign stands above the roof line, corn is intercropped among the foundation shrubs, and mounds of oyster shells substitute for redwood bark mulch. Waiting patrons jam the narrow entrance foyer, and diners often overflow three dining rooms, the bar, and—weather permitting—a large, covered patio.

While the Roadhouse menu extends far beyond seafood, fish and shellfish play an unusually large role; a half-dozen fresh fish (usually with more adventuresome choices than the competition), several standards, and an attractive special or two. While it's only served sparingly over pasta, the San Francisco Cioppino Macaroni is cioppino as it ought to be but rarely is—even in San Francisco. Add the oyster bar with its selection of exotic species, a fine clam chowder with Neuske's bacon (what else?), and you have a first-rate American restaurant with wide choices for both meat and fish lovers.

Seafood starters include proper crab cakes, with just enough binder to keep the meaty chunks together; steamed mussels done with finesse; wood-fired barbecued fresh oysters (interesting, but why cook

'em at all?); and raw oysters. Standard entrées include even more crab cakes, southern fried catfish, and a plank-roasted featured catch. But my most joyous fishing excursions have been among the daily specials. Some of my favorite catches there include a primo filé gumbo, dark brown from its brick roux, and (deep, contented sigh) linguine with white clam sauce.

It sounds so simple—just fresh hard-shell clams, intensely briny clam juice, garlic sautéed in good olive oil, flat-leaf parsley, and a pinch of crushed red pepper—but almost nobody does it right. They may use flavorless tinned clams or steam-open fresh clams and ditch the broth; they'll chicken out on the garlic, or water the clam juice. But the full-flavored Roadhouse version soars. The big twist is the shower of fresh lemon zest, a magnificent foil for the brininess and garlic.

The Roadhouse does miss sometimes, though. The grilled fresh sardines—one of those adventuresome choices—looked perfect on the menu, but my small portion was mangled, a bit dried out, and missing big hunks of the grilled skin. I didn't want to delay my companions' meals by throwing them back, but I should have.

Service at Zingerman's has a style all its own, part culinary evangelist, part student activist, part deli counterperson. Servers are clad in Zingerman's T-shirts and attentive to a T. You'll rarely hear one say, "I'll have to ask."

And then, of course, there are the baked goods. Among the three reviewed establishments, Zingerman's own crusty, coarsely cut bread and simple desserts take the cake. The brunch-time pastry basket is to die for. Add a cup or two of their superior coffee...that's a meal!

All three are worthy establishments, so how does one choose? Gandy Dancer puts the "special" in "special occasion" and delivers the most formal and luxurious experience, all while doing justice to the main ingredient. Real Seafood Company, true to its name, is all about the fish (sometimes the whole fish), and little else but the fish. Zingerman's Roadhouse is in that uniquely Zingerman's place, offering far more than fish, a bit of adventure, and its famously full flavors. All three belong on any seafood lover's list. In the end, the choice may come down to your mealtime mood.

—Dave Marx

Gandy Dancer
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table talk

Cooking classes are back at Ker-rytown. Since September, more than a dozen local chefs have been dishing up on Wednesdays and Sundays at Hollander's new upstairs kitchen store. They include familiar chefs dating back to the old Kitchen Port days—like Marge Biance (tailgate fare) and Lakshmi Narayanan (Indian food)—and crossovers from Hollander's book-arts world, like papermaker Karen O'Neal, who has been making gingerbread houses for more than thirty years. Tom Hollander, who co-owns the Hollander's emporium with his wife, Cindy, says the kitchen store has been paying for itself. He hopes the holiday season, together with momentum from the cooking classes, will tip it into profitability.

Which is not to say the start wasn't a little rough. The chef at one of the first classes ran over by half an hour, partly because she was looking for various utensils and moving ingredients around the counter because they were blocking the audience's view of what she was doing. Now a custom overhead mirror is in place, and the cooks are comfortable enough to crack jokes as they zoom through the preparation of two recipes in an hour, leaving plenty of time for questions, samples, and applause. Local Italian chef Francesca Giarrappa made Tuscan bean soup and pasta e fagioli in late October. When someone asked if they could substitute more familiar kidney or pinto beans for the cannellini or nutty borlotti beans the recipes called for, Giarrappa graciously responded, "sure, whatever you like." She paused, then added, "but then it won't be Tuscan bean soup anymore."

—Mary Beth Lewis

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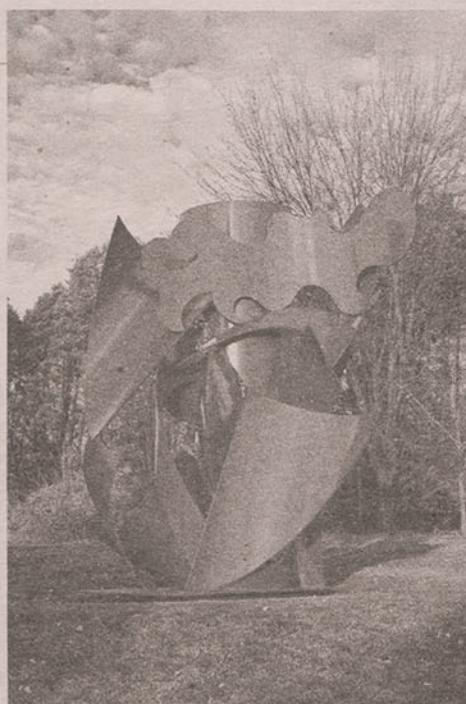
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i spy

by Sally Bjork

Clue: Red to the North

"I believe the photo is of the fountain 'Sea Nymph'...east of the Michigan League," writes Kristen Schleick—the only entrant to correctly identify November's feature. The turquoise-glazed ceramic sculpture of a sea nymph riding the waves atop a large fish is in the courtyard garden of the Michigan League. Clivia Calder executed the Gerald Mast design in 1938 as part of the Federal Art Program of the Works Progress Administration. Unlike other WPA projects, the FAP relied on sponsors to match funds to create works of art for public spaces. As sponsor of the work, the League obtained ownership of the fountain when the program ended in 1940. Calder was the FAP's supervisor of ceramics for the State of Michigan. According to Elizabeth Clemens in *The Works Progress Administration in Detroit*, Calder's sculptures, both small



and large, "were in high demand by institutions throughout the state."

Our other three entrants, falling for a fishy similarity, guessed that the image showed the fountain on the west side of the League, Carl Milles' beloved "Sunday Morning In Deep Waters."

To enter December's contest, use the clue and photo above to find the spot shown, then follow the instructions at the bottom of the page.



fake ad

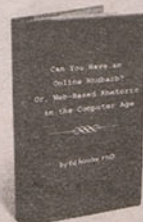
by Jay Forstner

We received 174 responses correctly identifying the Fake Ad on p. 11 of the November Observer. The ad was for a book, *Can You Have an Online Rhubarb?*, self-published by Ed Nimby, a character who's appeared in several previous Fake Ads as a political candidate. The magic word, Arborweb, bridged the title and the subtitle, *Web-Based Rhetoric in the Computer Age*.

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The new book by best-selling (as measured by self-metrics) author Ed Nimby, PhD (in chiropractic arts)



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"It's nice to see Ed Nimby back," wrote his near namesake, Ed Kimball. "He hasn't appeared in a Fake Ad in a long time."

And Jeff Ristine wrote from far-off San Diego: "Good to know our old friend Ed Nimby has found a career outside politics!"

Our winner, Jan Voress of Adrian, earned a \$25 gift certificate to Blue Tractor.

To enter either contest, send email with the subject "Fake Ad" or "I Spy" to backpage@aaobserver.com. Mail: 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, 48104. Fax: 769-3375. You must include your name, address, and telephone number! All correct entries received by noon on December 10 will be eligible for this month's random drawings. Winners will receive \$25 gift certificates to any business advertising in this issue.

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DEC. 1 - DEC. 13

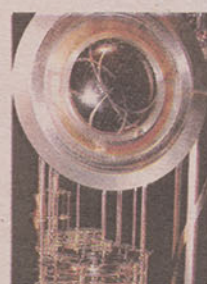
EXHIBITION: Touching the Spirit

Ceramic work by Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living participants and U-M Art & Design students in the course "Many Ways of Seeing."

Celebration: Monday, December 7th

2:00 - 6:00pm

Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living,
3941 Research Park Drive, Ann Arbor



DEC. 3

PENNY W. STAMPS VISITORS SERIES:

Stewart Brand, Critical Thinker & Innovator

TITLE: Hacking Civilization

Brand is creator of the *Whole Earth Catalog* and co-founder of the Hackers Conference and The WELL. His books include *How Buildings Learn*, *The Media Lab* and *Whole Earth Discipline: An Ecopragmatist Manifesto*. With support from UM Arts on Earth.

5:10pm - Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty



OCT. 23 - DEC. 4

EXHIBITION: The Four Corners

A suite of 19 color intaglio prints by A&D Professor Emeritus Takeshi Takahara inspired by time spent in the southwest.

Residential College Gallery



DEC. 10

PENNY W. STAMPS VISITORS SERIES:

Lucy Orta, Artist and Social Activist

TITLE: Body, Architecture

Lucy Orta creates interventions and actions about community, exclusion, dwelling, mobility, and sustainability. With support from UMMA, MOCAD, and Chelsea River Gallery.

5:10pm - Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty



Nov. 20 - DEC. 18

EXHIBITION: All Student Exhibition

A&D's once-a-year extravaganza, with all undergraduate and graduate students invited to submit work.

Slusser Gallery, 1st flr, 2000 Bonisteel Blvd.

Robbins Gallery, 2nd floor 2000 Bonisteel Blvd.

Work • Ann Arbor, 306 S. State

arts & BODIES

DEC. 18 - JAN. 15

EXHIBITION: Arts & Bodies

The A&D and Detroit creative communities focus on work that illuminates some aspect of the relationship between art and the body.

Opening Reception: Friday, January 8th

6:00 - 9:00pm

Work • Detroit, 3663 Woodward Ave, Detroit

Events at a Glance

Daily Events listings begin on p. 39.

Nightspots begin on p. 66.

Concert Music

classical, religious, cabaret

- Today's Brass Quintet, Dec. 5
- Sacred Song chorus, Dec. 5
- University Choral Union "Messiah," Dec. 5 & 6
- Tuba Christmas, Dec. 6
- Ann Arbor Civic Chorus, Dec. 6
- Ypsilanti Symphony Orchestra, Dec. 6
- Measure for Measure men's chorus, Dec. 6
- Pianist Jolyon Pegis & cellist Joel Schoenhals, Dec. 7
- Willis Patterson Our Own Thing Chorale, Dec. 8
- Boychoir of Ann Arbor, Dec. 11 & 12
- Community Messiah Sing, Dec. 12
- Vivo Sinfonietta, Dec. 12
- Pianist Jean-Yves Thibaudet, Dec. 12
- Dexter Community Band, Dec. 13
- Ypsilanti Community Band & Community Choir, Dec. 15
- Eastman Wind Ensemble, Dec. 17
- Women's Chamber Chorus, Dec. 18
- The Black House Ceilidh folk & classical chamber ensemble, Dec. 18 & 19
- Treetown Community Chorus, Dec. 19
- Dexter Community Orchestra, Dec. 20
- Vocal Arts Ensemble, Dec. 20
- St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Lessons & Carols, Dec. 20
- Three Men and a Tenor, Dec. 20-22
- First Presbyterian Church Lessons & Carols, Dec. 24
- Northside Community Church Lessons & Carols, Dec. 24
- First Baptist Church Lessons & Carols, Dec. 24
- St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Festival Prelude, Dec. 24

Vernacular Music

pop, rock, jazz, & traditional

- Swell Season (pop-folk), Dec. 2
- Willerm Delisfort Project (jazz), Dec. 3
- Don White (singer-songwriter), Dec. 4
- Saline Fiddlers ReStrung, Dec. 6
- E3C and E/N/D (avant-jazz), Dec. 7
- Katie Geddes & Friends (folk), Dec. 11
- Adam Unsworth Jazz Ensemble, Dec. 12
- Chaverim B'Shirim (pop chorus), Dec. 13
- Dobbins/Krahnke/Weed (jazz), Dec. 17
- Jeff Daniels (singer-songwriter), Dec. 26, 27, & 31

Theater, Opera, & Dance

- *As You Like It* (Greenhills School), Dec. 1 & 2
- *Escanaba* (Purple Rose Theatre), Dec. 2-6, 9-13, & 16-20
- Short Plays (U-M Basement Arts), Dec. 3-5
- *Annie* (Encore Musical Theatre), Dec. 3-6, 10-13, & 17-19
- *Patience* (U-M Gilbert & Sullivan Society), Dec. 3-6
- *Christmas Carol'd* (Performance Network), Dec. 3-6, 10-13, 17-20, 24, 26, & 27
- *Cinderella* (EMU Dance Program), Dec. 4
- *If Only in My Dreams* (Blackbird Theatre), Dec. 4-6 & 11-13
- *Impossible Marriage* (Ann Arbor Civic Theatre), Dec. 4-6, 11, & 12
- *A Puppet History of Ypsilanti* (Dreamland Theater), Dec. 6, 13, 20, & 27
- *See Rock City and Other Destinations* (U-M Musical Theatre), Dec. 10-13
- *Macbeth* (U-M Theatre Department), Dec. 10-13

- *Auntie Mame* (PTD Productions), Dec. 10-13 & 17-19
- Dance and Related Arts Concert (U-M Dance Department), Dec. 10 & 11
- *Angels in America* (U-M Residential College), Dec. 11
- *Muerta Goes to Space Prison* (Dreamland Theater), Dec. 12 & 19
- *Uncle Vanya* (U-M Residential College), Dec. 12
- *Nutcracker* (Ann Arbor Ballet Theater), Dec. 18-20
- *The Canterville Ghost and The Inspector General* (Children's Russian Club), Dec. 19

Comedy & Performance Art

- Comic Dan Grueter, Dec. 3-5
- Comic Lisa Lampanelli, Dec. 5
- Detroit Comedy Festival Auditions, Dec. 9
- Comic Horace H.B. Sanders, Dec. 10-12
- Comic Allyn Ball, Dec. 17-19
- Comic Chrissy Burns, Dec. 26

Festivals, Fairs, & Shows

- Chelsea "Hometown Holiday," Dec. 4-6
- Dexter "Home for the Holidays," Dec. 5
- Waterloo Area Farm Museum "Christmas at the Farm," Dec. 5
- Ypsilanti Holiday Homes Tour, Dec. 5 & 6
- Concordia University Boar's Head Festival, Dec. 5 & 6
- Cobblestone Farm "Country Christmas," Dec. 6
- Main Street "Festive Friday Holiday Nights," Dec. 11 & 18
- Anthroposophical Society Christmas Festival, Dec. 19
- First Congregational Church Living Nativity, Dec. 24

Lectures, Readings, & Forums

- Poet Yedda Morrison, Dec. 1
- Poet Donald Hall, Dec. 1
- Fiction writers Tracy Dougherty & Marjorie Sandor, Dec. 3
- PostSecret founder Frank Warren, Dec. 4
- Poet Piotr Sommer, Dec. 7
- Novelist Brad Leithauser, Dec. 7
- Poet Edward Morin, Dec. 9
- Spoken word artist Davy Rothbart, Dec. 11
- Poet Pia Taavila, Dec. 15

Miscellaneous

- Washtenaw Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count, Dec. 19

Family & Kids' Stuff

- *The Nutcracker* (Youth Dance Theatre), Dec. 4-6
- *The Prince, the Wolf, & the Firebird* (EMU Theater Department), Dec. 4-6 & 10-12
- *Cinderella* (Ypsilanti Area Dancers), Dec. 5 & 6
- *A Christmas Carol* (Family Theater Project), Dec. 5 & 6
- *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing* (Theaterworks USA), Dec. 6
- *Little Women* (Wild Swan Theater), Dec. 10-13
- *Merlin* (Young Actors Guild), Dec. 11-13
- Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra "Sing Along with Santa," Dec. 12
- Kiwanis Christmas Sing, Dec. 13
- *The Nutcracker* (Dance Alliance), Dec. 13

"Only in Ann Arbor"

Event of the Month

- U-M Michigan Mobile Phone Ensemble, Dec. 9



Handel's Messiah

UMS Choral Union
Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra
Jerry Blackstone conductor
Ava Pine soprano
Anthony Roth Costanzo countertenor
Robert Bracey tenor
Kyle Ketelsen baritone
Edward Parmentier harpsichord

Sat, Dec 5 | 8 PM
Sun, Dec 6 | 2 PM

HILL AUDITORIUM

The Grammy Award-winning UMS Choral Union launches the holiday season with its signature work, Handel's glorious oratorio *Messiah*. An Ann Arbor tradition in the beautiful surroundings of Hill Auditorium, these performances are ultimately the heart and soul of UMS, connecting audiences with the talented people on stage as well as with family and friends who attend this year.

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AND ANN ARBOR'S 107ONE.

DECEMBER EVENTS



Jean-Yves Thibaudet piano

Sat, Dec 12 | 8 PM

HILL AUDITORIUM

"Every note he fashions as a pearl...the joy, brilliance, and musicality of his performance could not be missed." (*The New York Times*) A master of color, nuance, and interpretation, pianist Jean-Yves Thibaudet is recognized for his sophisticated performances and poetic soul. Considered one of the great pianists of our time, he has been praised by the press as "a musical treasure of this age." His absolute artistry, virtuosity, and charisma will be on display in Hill Auditorium just a few days before his Carnegie Hall recital.

PROGRAM

Ravel Pavane pour une enfante defunte (1899)
Ravel Miroirs (1904-05)
Brahms Sonata No. 3 in f minor, Op. 5 (1853)

CO-SPONSORED BY NATALIE MATOVINOVIĆ AND DONALD MORELOCK.
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EDUCATION EVENTS

AFRICA FESTIVAL KICKOFF

Fri, Dec 4 | 7 PM

BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE RESEARCH BUILDING

Help kick off UMS's 2010 Africa Series by celebrating the African talent within our own community at this performance and reception. The event will feature food, performing artists, and pageantry from many African nations represented in our region.

A COLLABORATION WITH THE UNITED AFRICAN COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION, U-M AFRICAN STUDIES CENTER, U-M CENTER FOR AFRO AND AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES, U-M INSTITUTE FOR THE HUMANITIES, AND U-M ARTS ON EARTH.

MASTERPIECES REVEALED: Handel's Messiah

Sat, Dec 5 | 1:30-3 PM

HILL AUDITORIUM

Performing Handel's *Messiah* is an annual tradition in Ann Arbor. As part of the pre-concert festivities, conductor Jerry Blackstone, singer Freda Herseht, and their stable of University singers will delve into the wonders of this oft-performed work.

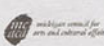
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